

TOWN and AROUND



NEWS FROM
NW NORFOLK
FREE

ISSUE 170 DECEMBER 2019

PRICELESS!

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES: Your calendar for the month ahead
THE GREAT OUTDOORS: Sport, gardening, farming, nature and wildlife
LOCAL NEWS: Business, jobs, schools, clubs, council, civic and churches
FEATURES: A Page from the Sage, Lifeboats, Money Matters and more...

First word



Welcome to our December edition that has a distinctively festive feel about it.

On our cover is Mervyn Francis who is celebrating his fiftieth year in showbusiness by appearing at the Princess Theatre as the Dame in Dick Whittington and his Wonderful Cat. Mervyn enjoys performing in Hunstanton and his story is included in our review of the local pantomimes that you will

find on pages 32-37.

It can't have escaped your notice that there is a General Election this month and on page 94 you can find a statement from each of the four candidates in this NW Norfolk Constituency. You might want to attend the hustings at St Mary's Heacham on 3rd December - details on page 12.

We have a huge list of festive events for you to enjoy on pages 90-91; December is certainly a very busy month in this neck of the woods. Just spare a thought for those hardy souls who will be braving the icy cold Wash for charity on Christmas Day at the Round Table Christmas Swim.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the magazine over the year; your words, photos, letters and reports help make the magazine so interesting and varied. Thanks also to our fabulous delivery team and all our advertisers; if you are buying something from an advertiser, please mention Town and Around - it is their revenue that enables us to produce the magazine for you each month.

I hope you have a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

With best wishes

Elaine

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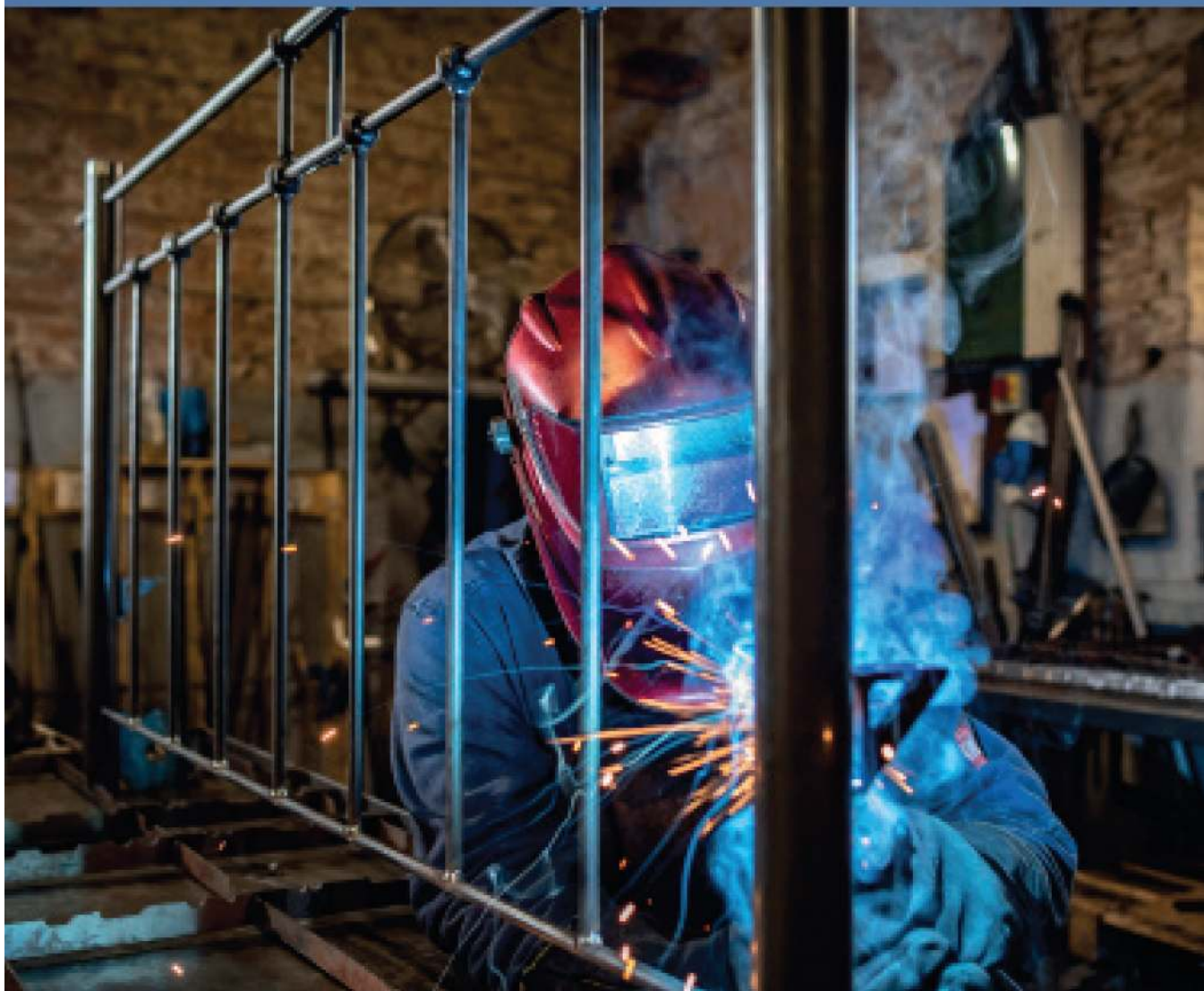
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* see website for full sale details and showroom opening times.

Hunstanton residents have their say at drop-in session

Sophie Hooker

Representatives from West Norfolk Council, Norfolk County Council, Hemingway Design and The Design Partnership were on hand on 7th November at the Town Hall to answer burning questions and unveil proposed plans for the regeneration of Hunstanton seafront and the development of residential and commercial builds elsewhere in the town.

It was a chance for residents to talk to officials regarding the proposed plans for the town and to submit their feedback. A number of concepts and designs were on display, including:

- A larger, modern library extending into the current bus station
- A national chain hotel built on Seagate carpark
- The possibility for a boutique hotel near Azam's
- Retail and commercial units and apartments near the library
- Residential units built on Southend car park
- The replacement of the bus station- bus stops were proposed for outside of the Princess Theatre and the Spinney
- Feasibility plans for a marine lake on the seafront
- An improved leisure centre to replace the Oasis either in its current location or elsewhere
- Plans for improving the appearance of the promenade – such as resurfacing works and new lighting
- More cultural events such as small-scale festivals, pop-up events, outdoor cinema screenings and a pop-up street food market

Talking to residents at the event, we discovered that one of the biggest concerns is building on the existing car parks. To combat the issue, the idea of converting the coach park on Seagate into a 'pay on foot' car park and letting coaches park elsewhere was proposed by officials.

Sarah Hassan, Assistant Head of the Norfolk Library Service said:

"We are really pleased to be part of the regeneration project and to be able to develop the Library service in the town. There is far more space enabling us to do so much more. At a practical level we have surgery space perfect for one to one consultations, a learning area and an accessible toilet as well as more room in the library itself."

From the Design Partnership, Paul Dunthorne said: "These are our outline plans that will be tweaked over the coming weeks as we evaluate the response from this and other consultations. We've already heard that people are concerned about access issues around disabled parking near the library and the need for a drop off zone and we'll be discussing this further with the Borough



Council."

Paul told us that he had been talking to people constantly for the first three hours of the event and such was the level of interest and numbers of visitors more questionnaires had to be printed as they had run out by lunchtime.

Matthew Henry, West Norfolk Council's assistant director of regeneration and property, said: "Obviously, these regeneration plans are big for Hunstanton, but we're hoping to ensure and elevate prosperity and vibrancy of the town.

"Hunstanton's local economy is seasonally dependent and is driven by visitors in the summer holidays. What we're hoping to do is to extend the season with a provision of more year-round activities."

On the leisure centre, Matthew told us the two options that they are evaluating: "The Oasis was built in the 1980s and is nearing the end of its useful life – it is very expensive to run, with heating bills in particular. There are two options: close the current leisure centre for two years while a new one is built or keep it open while another leisure centre is built somewhere else."

Finally, on the issue of car parking in the town, Matthew notes that the car parks are at full capacity on only 9 days of the year, and it is about "striking a balance".

Feedback from online and from the drop-in session will be evaluated and planning applications will be submitted over the coming months.



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'Biggest ever' fireworks display goes off with a bang

It was a soaring success for Hunstanton and District Round Table this weekend as thousands of people gathered on the cliff top of Hunstanton for their 'biggest ever' firework display.

The display was made even more epic with the addition of a laser lightshow choreographed to music, something that has never been done locally before.

Despite high winds and rain threatening to put a dampener on the night earlier in the day, the skies soon cleared and the show could be seen in all of its spectacular glory.



There was no shortage of fun to be had as folks enjoyed entertainment from KLFM DJ Mark Purdy, a huge bonfire lit by Hunstanton's Mayor and Mayoress Tony and Joy Bishopp, a fun fair and a performance from Mike Tandy's rock choir.



Refreshments were also on hand courtesy of Round Table's sister group Hunstanton Ladies Circle who raised just over £1500.



Hunstanton Fireworks are run annually by volunteers in Hunstanton and District Round Table who each give up their time to give back to the community. Funds raised at the event will go toward local good causes.

Hunstanton and District Round Table said: "Thank you to everyone that came to enjoy the show and support some fantastic causes. See you all at the Christmas Day swim!"

Photos: Ian Burt



Bev Howell with her daughter Layla (5) and Jason Clarkson with his children Seth (10) and Matilda (7)



Zoe Else and Chris Brittin with Amelia (8) and Maisie (4).



Christian and Zea Minns with their children Remi (8) and Oriana (4)



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Norfolk Police Wins World Class Policing Award

Norfolk Police has won a prestigious World Class Policing Award for its innovation in tackling, disrupting and preventing crime with its Operation Moonshot.

The force beat off competition from 54 finalists, drawn from more than 100 outstanding entries from across the globe, to win a trophy at the new event recognising outstanding police work from across the world.

Operation Moonshot combines police intelligence, specialist training and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) tools and has returned some incredible results since it piloted in 2016.

The programme uses ANPR static and mobile cameras to highlight vehicles of interest and innovative use of intelligence to provide a bespoke 'hotlist' ensuring vehicles stopped by the intercept team are actively relevant criminals.

It means intercept teams can now pick out criminals of interest from other more road and traffic-related offenders.

Operation Moonshot was part of a wider change programme at the force, and its successes have been nothing short of outstanding set against cuts to police resourcing.

The types of crime being disrupted by the programme are high harm, high-risk offenders ranging from organised crime groups through to outstanding domestic abuse offenders.

In addition, across the county within just 50 operational days 1,084 arrests were made, 1,179 vehicles seized, 827 intelligence submissions made and 1,450 traffic offence reports completed.

Operation Moonshot teams have seized 28 knives, five imitation and viable firearms and charged 13 criminals with offensive weapon offences while non-residential burglary and vehicle crime has been reduced in Norwich.

The programme is now in place at Suffolk Police and has become a fundamental part of both forces' neighbourhood policing tactics.

Judges commented that this was an "extremely impressive operation".

A spokesman said: "This is a very strong and worthy winner. This evidence-based initiative is making real improvements to policing at a local level, delivering results and taking full account of officer safety. This is a brilliant operation helping to disrupt crime and keep communities safe."

The World Class Policing Awards are sponsored by Accenture and specifically recognise and celebrate the collaborative nature of policing - whether that is a brilliant investigation, a business change project or a multi-agency partnership - in delivering the most effective and efficient way to protect our communities and keep them safe.

Attendees at the Awards - which took place at the Grosvenor Hotel in Park Lane, London - included Chief Police officers from across the Globe as well as winners, their partners and sponsors. They were presented by broadcaster Jeremy Vine.



Photo credit Lenore Everson

NORTH WEST NORFOLK MONOPOLY BOARD OFFICIALLY PASSES GO

Have you ever wanted to own Hunstanton Beach or reside at Sandringham House? Well, now is your chance with the release of a limited-edition North & West Norfolk Monopoly board!

The Norfolk Hospice has launched an official, limited edition Monopoly board to celebrate its 35th Birthday, just in time for Christmas.

The extra special board was revealed at a launch party at No Twenty9 in Burnham Market on Tuesday 12th November.

Produced and designed by The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House, the Monopoly Board game will go on sale on the 9th December.

Tammy Green, Senior Fundraising Manager said: "We are so excited to say we have officially passed go and North & West Norfolk will have its very own exclusive Monopoly Board. This is a fantastic product which has been produced as a permanent reminder for locals and visitors that we are extremely lucky to share this beautiful part of the world, packed with award winning locations, attractions and beaches."

John Garrett, Director of Finance and Fundraising said: "We were thrilled to have been chosen by UK-based Winning Moves to produce this special North & West Norfolk edition.

"The sale of the Monopoly Games will provide significant funds for the Hospice with all the proceeds going to provide outstanding passionate care to communities in North & West Norfolk."

The Norfolk Hospice reaches out to more than 1,200 families each year. The sale of the Monopoly boards will enable The Norfolk Hospice to provide first class care for families who so desperately need their help.

No Twenty9 is the headline sponsor and a number of local businesses also sponsored the



The Norfolk Hospice team at the launch party of the Monopoly board. Picture: Ian Burt

board and have their own designated space. See if you can spot them!

Tammy added: "We have been overwhelmed by the fantastic support of our headline sponsor No Twenty9 and so very grateful to all the local businesses that have sponsored a property on the board, Community Chest or Chance card. The support that has been shown to the Hospice to produce this game just shows what an incredible community we operate in and we will always be grateful."

To pre order the North & West Norfolk edi-

tion of Monopoly (£29.99) visit www.norfolkhospice.org.uk/monopoly. The game will go on sale from the 9th December throughout various local retailers (details to follow on their website) including all of The Norfolk Hospice's Charity shops and direct from the Hospice.

If you would like more information about stocking the game, please contact Tammy Green at the Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House on 01485 601701 or email tammy.green@norfolkhospice.org.uk.

Take care of your health this winter

Dr Paul Williams, Chair West Norfolk CCG

The NHS is one of our best loved institutions, it's here to look after you when you're ill or hurt and also to help you look after yourself to prevent illness. So with that in mind, let me state the obvious - winter is coming - and with it come the whole range of health problems that come to the fore this time of year.

Have you had your flu jab yet? Remember if you are in one of the following groups you are entitled to, and we recommend that you should have, a free flu jab: all children aged two to ten (but not eleven years or older) on 31 August 2019, those aged six months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups: pregnant women, those aged 65 years and over, those in long-stay residential care homes, carers and close contacts of people whose immune system is not strong.

There are a number of "at risk" groups but the common ones are people with long-term heart and lung problems such as heart failure, COPD and asthma, also patients with diabetes and those with a compromised immune system. Ask your surgery if you are unsure if you qualify. Flu injections are available from your GP surgery and some pharmacies.

What the flu season was like over our summer in the southern hemisphere is often a guide to how much flu we will experience and this year they have had a very high number of flu cases so this is a

good year to make sure you get immunised.

And on the theme of helping us to help you.... we can all help those who really need to see their GP by making sure we use right NHS services and advice when we are under the weather. Your local pharmacist has the necessary skills to spot those who need to see their doctor and the ability to help those with more minor illnesses. Also NHS 111 can give you advice if you have an urgent medical problem and are not sure what to do. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can also get help online by visiting 111.nhs.uk (for people aged five and over only). Or a smart way to find the help you need is on the NHS App. You can use it to check symptoms, book an appointment, order repeat medications and even see some of your medical records securely. It's simple to log on and register and I'd encourage you to sign up.

As I have urged before, let's make sure we support our community over the winter. Keep an eye on your elderly neighbours and offer to help where necessary, especially over the festive period.

I really hope you have a wonderful Christmas and may I finish off by wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year as we enter the 2020s.

Keep warm this winter and look out for each other.

Introducing Complete Garage Doors

Les Tite owns and runs the Complete Garage Door Services company in King's Lynn. He has over fifteen years' experience in repairing, automating and installing garage doors. One of Les' recent installations was for customised Hörmann doors and David O'Mara from Hörmann writes about the project for Town and Around.

Creating a secure and functional space was one Hörmann customer's main priority when he undertook the task of creating a cartlodge to accommodate his motorhome and kit cars.

During the planning phase, the homeowner had to take into account the unusual height of the opening, which was higher than a typical garage due to the size of the campervan and additional height of the aerial.

The homeowner said: "A lot of research was involved in selecting the most appropriate doors, which was probably the hardest part of the project, as I knew that hinged wooden doors would have been far too heavy due to the size and the windage could prove dangerous. It quickly became apparent that sectional garage doors were also not an option in the size we required."

He liaised with Les Tite at Complete Garage Doors to find the most suitable option for the bespoke project. The new overhead RollMatic OD door from Hörmann UK was recommended for the cartlodge as it opens vertically, features a narrow design to allow fitting in very tight spaces and only requires a lintel of 60mm.

The customer commented: "The cartlodge faces our kitchen window, so whilst the functionality of the garage door was vital, it was also important that the overall appearance was aesthetically pleasing."

"The Hörmann RollMatic OD doors were just what we needed, in terms of both practicality and style, and we couldn't be happier with the finished result. We especially like the soft start and stop feature which means that the doors travel smoothly and don't feel clunky, despite the extra-large size."

A picture of this installation can be seen top right in the advertisement that accompanies this article.

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Norfolk's gritters are ready for winter with 16,000 tonnes of salt

An early cold snap saw Norfolk's gritters make their first run of the season at the end of October. Crews were out on the roads in this part of the county treating roads with the specially formulated salt designed to prevent ice forming on the road surface.

Preparations for keeping Norfolk moving this winter are in place with around 16,000 tonnes of salt stocked in the county. This will be replenished as needed during the winter through a long-term contract the council has with its supplier Compass Minerals. More than a third of Norfolk's roads are on the council's 49 regular gritting routes, including all A and B-class roads and some C-class roads. Each full run covering 2,200 miles of road takes around three hours to complete. The A11 and A47 are gritted by Highways England.

People can check which roads are on the council's gritting routes for the 2019/20 season on the map at www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting. On the same map people can find the locations of around 1,900 grit bins in the county that are filled by the County Council and which people can use on public pavements, cycle paths and roads.



Every year when the weather gets cold, Norfolk County Council launches its Norfolk Winter information-sharing campaign, designed to help people in the county cope during the colder months. Regular gritting updates and other useful advice are posted on Norfolk County Council's social media channels, using the #NorfolkWinter hashtag on Twitter (www.twitter.com/norfolkcc) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/norfolkcc). People are being asked to help each other by getting behind the Norfolk Winter campaign and sharing any information that may help

keep people in the county happy, healthy and safe when the weather is cold, icy or snowy. There is also lots of useful information at www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkwinter. The salt used to treat roads in Norfolk works by reducing the freezing point of water on the surface. However, even when roads are treated there is no guarantee they will be completely clear of ice or snow. For example, in severe cold weather (below approximately minus seven degrees Celsius) even salt will not prevent the roads from icing over.

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HUSTINGS AT HEACHAM



Residents have an opportunity to meet and listen to the candidates standing in this constituency at a special hustings meeting taking place on Tuesday 3rd December 2019 at 6.30pm at Heacham Parish Church PE31 7HJ

All four candidates have confirmed their attendance at this event that will be chaired by Rt Revd Graham Usher, The Bishop of Norwich and hosted by Heacham Parish Church and Heacham Methodist Church.

The candidates are:

James Wild (Conservative Party)

Jo Rust (Labour)

Rob Colwell (Liberal Democrats)

Michael de Whalley (Green Party)

There will be statements from each candidate, followed by pre-submitted questions and there will be the opportunity to ask additional questions to the candidates informally after the hustings itself over refreshments.

OLD HUNSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL

During the recent distribution and collection of the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire it became apparent that there was a misconception of the role and powers of a Parish Council. As part of our initiative to become more transparent as a council and to engage with the village so villagers can be more informed on what we do and why, I will endeavour to keep you up to date on our processes and procedures during the next few months.

Unlike Town, District and County Councils we are not a legislative body, we have an advisory role for Highways, Parking etc., and other areas that require legislation. However, we do have a say on Planning and related policy which allows us to comment on planning matters regarding development of housing within the parish. This was reflected in the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire which asked your views on future developments and the materials used. The District Council has a Local Plan for West Norfolk which, among other things, contains the housing need for the District and areas that have been put forward or earmarked for development. The Neighbourhood Plan would inform the planners of the wishes of the villagers in respect of the numbers of housing units and material used for any future developments. This is a Government backed initiative and planners must take into account the Neighbourhood Plan when making decisions on developments within the village. The Local Plan takes precedent over the N.P., but if the N.P. has been adopted by the District Council as part of the Local Plan then it should be adhered to.

Recent activity by the Parish Council is a request to reduce the speed limit through the village to 20mph. This was in line with other areas in the country where it has been successfully adopted. The County Council is not in favour so we are still trying. Chapel Bank, which is a single lane road that connects the A149 to Church Road has, currently, a 60mph speed limit which will be reduced to 30mph on completion of the Bennet's development to the south of Old Hunstanton, we think this should be 20mph also.

Parking is an issue especially during the summer months and we received photographic and anecdotal evidence of the chaos it causes during the last holiday period. We have reported this to the Highways Department at County Hall but they are unwilling to do anything about it. Our County Councillor, Andrew Jamieson and our Borough Councillor, Rob Lawton are aware of the matter and, we will, of course, keep raising the issue until we achieve resolution.

The condition of the cat's eyes on the A149 between The Lodge Hotel and Caley Hall is unacceptable and was reported to us at the September PC meeting. It was already on the agenda after an horrific accident to a member of the public who tripped on a damaged cat's eye which caused them to stumble across the road and head first into a rusty iron gate. This caused a head injury requiring stitches and a 7-week absence from work. When they approached the Highways Department to report the incident and to ask when repairs would be carried out, they were met with the same answer we received, i.e., there were no plans to repair or remove the cat's eyes. We have since received reports of more incidents and would welcome reports of any more, with written and/or photographic evidence if possible, that we can pass on to the Highways and our County and Borough representatives.

Please keep up to date by accessing the OHPC website and reading the minutes of our monthly meetings and any other notices displayed on there, including, current Doorstep and Telephone Scams. If anyone wishes to engage with the OHPC I would encourage them to do so through the Parish Council Clerk, Glynis Allen, whose contact details are on the website.

David McLeod

Chairman Old Hunstanton Parish Council

OLD HUNSTANTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Thank you to all residents who completed the Old Hunstanton Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire. Parish Councillors delivered 375 questionnaires and 224 have been returned, giving an excellent 60% response rate.

If you still have a questionnaire that needs to be collected, it is not too late. Please ring one of the numbers on the questionnaire to arrange for it to be picked up. If you have any queries please email Lynne Butters at neighbourhoodplan.oh@gmail.com

Once analysis is complete the findings will be published on the Parish Council website and in local publications....watch this space!

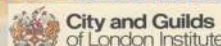
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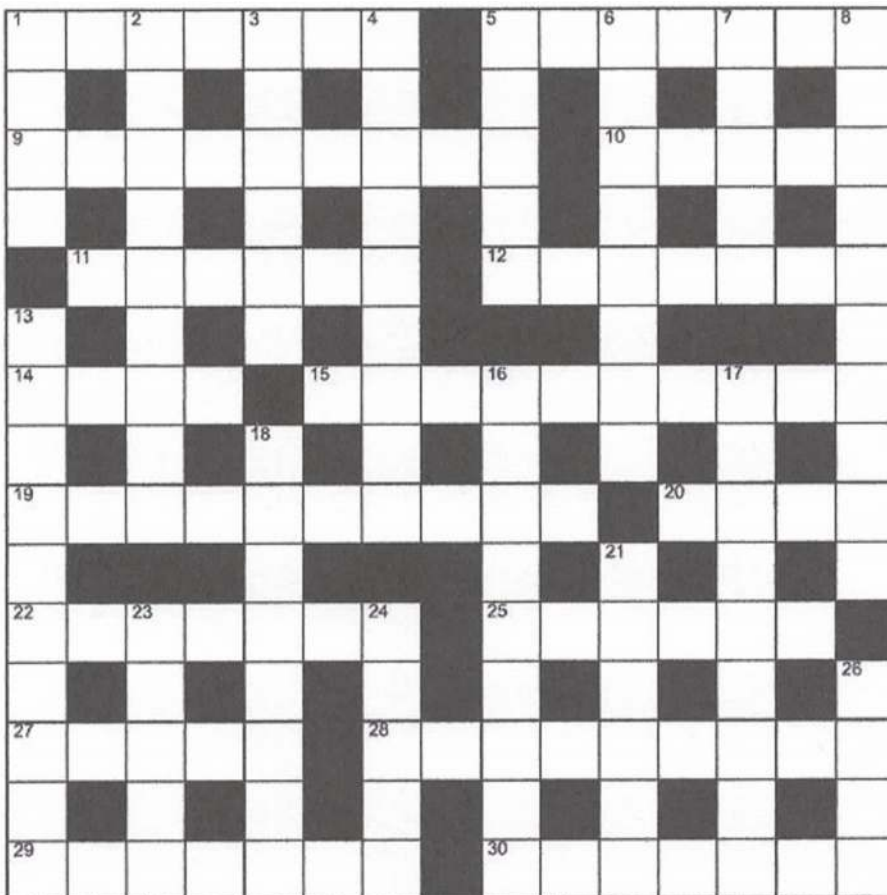
Crossword Clues Across

1. Locked pudding away (7)
5. Midway through Christmas wooden crosses are passed out (7)
9. Feed soon, in time for building to get decked out (9)
10. Their identities are oblivious to Santa at first (5)
11. Dripping is frozen! (6)
12. What Oliver wants, lol, is a cocktail with cherry (7)
14. Celebration mums attend after the 24th (4)
15. Building works could be a festive bloomer (10)
19. Cartoon cat I care to go wild about you are giving voice to (10)
20. Pulls pints – enough to go round (4)
22. Groups of magpies are a joy in seasonal chorus (7)
25. Rudolf is one Santa Clause collected mail for (6)
27. Vixen is chasing another reindeer, each heading for a sky pilot (5)
28. Look again at king bearing frankincense behind one with what could be gold (2-7)
29. Out of spirits he is scornful of Christmas present, we hear (7)
30. Bobs and reportedly causes great amusement (7)

Crossword Clues Down

1. Barney returns ready to start festivities (4)
2. A piece of cake with tea I can fit in nicely after dinner, maybe (4,5)
3. Put lid on dish (6)
4. Completely exhausted from snowballing? (6,3)
5. Mused about colourful display outside (5)
6. Wrapped up, ready for off (8)
7. Book of verse appearing around Christmas (5)
8. Bending down, infant starts carol over – what's wrong? (10)
13. Important people, late to church, turned up at five in fancy train (10)
16. Burns paperbacks stored and used for decoration (9)
17. Turning up but taking off to collect tree, in festive song (9)
18. Outline reason I had a party in cold (8)
21. Pass over first gift, displaying ecstasy on face (6)
23. Look, right now more stuffing is needed! (5)
24. Minister to take religious ceremony, though not in church to begin with (5)
26. You get points for proving that $7 + 6 - 9 = 22$ (4)

David Elsey's Cryptic Crossword



Crossword solution on page 70

Ray Butchers Su Doku

Easy first...

...then the more challenging

		6			5	4	7	9
7			6	2	4	1		8
	7		9		8		6	
	5						4	
	3		2		7		1	
2		7	5	3	1			4
1	4	9	8			7		

		2						
1	4			6		3		
3		7	8					9
	2		3			7		
			7		6			
		6			9		1	
5					8	4		1
		9		5			2	3
						6		

A Page from the Sage

Well here we are again with a Page from the Sage for the month of December for the Hunstanton Town and Around.

Ken Arnott

It was very sad to hear of the death of Ken Arnott. I first met Ken many years ago down on the beach when he was trying to teach one of his sons how to fish and I gave him some of my lugworms. When I first started writing to the papers, I would ask Ken's advice if I was in a muddle.

Ken thought the world of Hunstanton and over the years he did a lot for the town in many different ways: Ken organised the Christmas swim, but like me he was never brave enough to go in. Sometime in the early 1990s, Ken wrote a small booklet about Hunstanton and then in 1997 he compiled a 13-page history with all significant dates, starting from 1843. This was revised in 2002 and again in 2004. Ken also did two pages of significant dates for Old Hunstanton, starting way back in AD 833. Over the years I have found these lists of dates very handy. Ken did a lot for the town of Hunstanton and I am sure he will not be forgotten.

High Tides

Well now, what about all these high tides we have had this year? Ten of them 27 feet and over. Before this year I have never known more than three tides of over 27 feet in one year. Over the three days of the 29, 30 September and 1 October, we had three tides of over 27 feet on top of each other, so a flood alert was put in place for Snettisham, Heacham and Hunstanton. But you do not need extra high tides here in The Wash to get flooding, you must have gale force winds coming in from the north/west, so on that weekend we were lucky as the wind was only moderate.

We have some good sea defences here on the east side of The Wash and over the last ten to twenty years £20 million has been spent on new hard and soft defences, but these defences could be made better. As most people know, since 1990 each year in February/March sand and shingle is recycled from Snettisham scalp and spread along Snettisham, Heacham and Hunstanton (south) beaches, but as I have told the environment agency many times, this recycling is done at the wrong time of year. It should be done in May/June to let the sand and shingle settle when there is no high tides, but the environment people say we cannot do it at that time of year as the RSPB say it would disturb the birds that would be nesting on their reserve at Snettisham.

Since 1990, we have had on these beaches three recharges of sand and shingle brought in by barges from the Humber estuary, so you



by
Dick Melton

might say where has it all gone? Well, about half of it is washed back out to sea, and that is the reason there are now so many sandbanks in The Wash. We have very noisy jet planes roaring along our coastline each day for 364 days of the year, so what difference would about twelve heavy machines make for three weeks of the year? Early in the year at Bacton on the north Norfolk coast, millions of tonnes of sand were spread along the beach as a defence and more than half of it was washed out to sea because it was not allowed to settle as it was done at the wrong time of year.

Regeneration

Now then, what about this regeneration plan for the south promenade at Hunstanton? A year or two ago it was all over the papers and on the TV and there were meetings and walks along the promenade at Hunstanton but these meetings were for stakeholders (businesspeople only), but alterations to the town or promenade concerns all the people who live in the town and we were told that a public meeting was to be held but this did not happen. We have now been told that a large hotel could be built on Southend Road car park, why? It is not needed. We are told it will bring more people into the town, all sorts of ideas have been tried before to extend the season, but they have not worked. I also saw an image of the large block of flats that could go on the old Kit-Kat site and I was so flabbergasted. I was lost for words to think that we might have a monstrosity like that built on the sea front at Hunstanton.

Cley-next-the-Sea

This is a story about a lad called Buttercup Joe who lived at Cley-next-the-Sea during wartime between 1939 and 1945. Two highlights of my week would be to cycle down to the village to get fish and chips. We used to queue up as fish and chips were cheap those days, tuppence for chips and tuppence for a bit of fish. Mr and Mrs Platten had a fish and chip shop in the village and there was always a lot of RAF service men in the shop from RAF Langham. Mrs Platten, while

serving, would talk to these boys whom she got to know very well over the weeks.

I can remember being a small boy and admiring these men because they flew in those big bombers and I remember thinking how I would like to be one of them. They were known as the Brylcream boys. While waiting for my chips I would look at their uniforms: the pilot would have on his breast a full wing which was roughly in the shape of a bird's wing outstretched. The remaining crew would have a half wing with a circle on the end and in the circle would be a 'G' for gunner or 'N' for navigator.

They would have their tunics undone at the top where they wore a silk scarf and a whistle on the end of their lapel which they would blow if they ditched in the sea so the rescuers could find them. Of course, some nights some of them would be missing from their groups. Mrs Platten would enquire where Jonny or Fred were and one of them would tell her that he had bought it, which was their way of saying that he had been killed. Mrs Platten would stand there and cry openly.

Another thing I remember was that Mr Platten used to keep chickens and he used to fry eggs and sausages for these boys. Eggs were on ration and he was not allowed to sell them to the general public. In any case, those days fish and chip shops sold only fish and chips and the public would not have thought about buying anything else, as they said you could have eggs and sausages at home.

The other thing that always remained in my memory was Mr Platten cracking these eggs on the side of the pan, letting them drop into the deep boiling fat and they were cooked in seconds; I thought that this was a miracle as the war had been going on for about a year. Food rationing was well and truly with us, we had all been issued with ration books which were full of coupons. It only amounted to a few ounces of food each and people would swap two or three ounces of tea with their neighbour for two or three ounces of sugar. I well remember my mother not taking sugar in her tea as she had got used to it as a child in the 1914 war.

A lady from Holt told me she used to buy tea from her local Co-op for two and a half pence a quarter. Billy said when he was first married to his wife, she bought two tonnes of steam coal and two tonnes of house coal for two shillings a hundredweight, a packet of woodbines was two pence and a pint of beer was four pence. We had bucket toilets and ours was at the top of a very long garden next to Cley church. I think this building is still there. There weren't many people who could afford toilet paper, so we used to cut the newspaper up into handy squares, thread through a piece of string in the corner with a sack needle and hang it down on a large nail.

The evacuees had now arrived and were

placed with families all around the village. There were 125 children going to Cley school by that time and there were that many evacuees that we could not go to school for a full day, so we went in the mornings and they went in the afternoons. The poor dears were so afraid of the dark and Cley had no street lightning, so they were going to the toilet down the garden, having to use a torch or a lantern to see, and wiping their bums on newspaper, having nowhere to wash their hands, having to bath in a tin bath in front of the fire, many of them soon went back. These stories are taken from a book entitled Buttercups War at Cley-next-the-Sea 1931 to 1945.

Well that's your lot for this month, I have lost the sight in one eye so I reckon I will just have to write half a page. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas, just keep a troshin'.

The Boy Dick (The Sage)
All the way from Sunny Hunny.
01485 535658



Borough Council News Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

Nothing significant to report partly because I had to leave the Borough for several weeks and passed my meetings to substitutes. From what I have gleaned and also from personal experience it seems the Borough Council has given up answering questions, ensuring useful records of meetings are kept, and providing public debate when it is expected. Little change there then.

Imminent elections, national and by, now hinder further comments.

I am interested in who becomes MP in North West Norfolk. If you want my opinion, vote for Michael de Whalley. He is standing under the Green Party banner but he is part of the Independent Group at the Borough Council and has proven himself to be dedicated to challenging a very wide range of issues and strives to make things better for the people in his ward and for the inhabitants of West Norfolk. He also pursues wider environmental issues. He is honest, hardworking and self-effacing. What more do you want?

Look at all the candidates and make your choice but, be assured, this time, Green is best.



Happy Christmas and may the New year be a Good Year.

Terry Parish,
Independent Borough Councillor
Heacham Ward

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Dates & Deadlines! Have you filed your 2019 Tax Return yet?

Supplied by Kathryn Gigg, Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

30 NOVEMBER 2019

SAVINGS: last day that a Help to Buy: ISA can be opened

COMPANY ACCOUNTS: private companies with 28 February 2019 year-ends should file their accounts with Companies House

30 DECEMBER 2019

INCOME TAX: deadline for online submission of self assessment tax returns for tax year ended 5 April 2019 for HMRC to collect tax through PAYE codes where taxpayer owes less than £3,000

COMPANY ACCOUNTS: private companies with 31 March 2019 year-ends should file their accounts with Companies House

31 JANUARY 2020

INCOME TAX: SELF ASSESSMENT FILING AND PAYMENT DEADLINE:

Filing deadline for 2018/19 personal, partnership and trust returns filed online, or for paper returns which cannot be filed online (e.g. if you work for the Royal Estate).

Those who did not file their paper return by 31 October 2019 will incur £10 daily penalties if they do not file electronically by today. File electronically to avoid a penalty.

Please telephone us if you require any assistance with filing your 2019 Tax Return. At this late stage, we cannot guarantee that it will be filed ahead of the submission deadline but our advice may be invaluable in ensuring that you make constructive progress in bringing your tax affairs up to date. Please contact us on 01485 534800 or email kate@kathryngigg.co.uk.

Deadline to pay balancing payment for 2018/19 and first payment on account for 2019/20.

Deadline to pay Class 2 NIC for 2018/19.

Deadline to amend a 2017/18 tax return.

Deadline to file an outstanding 2017/18 tax return to avoid a tax geared penalty.

Deadline to file an outstanding 2015/16 return to displace a determination.

Deadline to notify liability to Class 2 NICs where your self employment began in 2018/19 tax year, to avoid a penalty.

CLAIMS & ELECTIONS: 31 January 2020 is the deadline for numerous self assessment claims and elections for 2013/14 to 2018/19. Please contact us to discuss if you require advice in this regard e.g. Loss Relief Claim.

COMPANY ACCOUNTS: private companies with 30 April 2019 year-ends should file their accounts at Companies House.

CORPORATION TAX: returns for accounting periods ended 31 January 2019 should be filed with HMRC by today.

GIFT AID: Individuals should make a claim to backdate gift aid donations, by today, in certain circumstances to benefit from a higher rate of tax relief.

TAX CREDITS: last day to renew tax credits for 2019/20 (if the 31 July 2019 deadline was missed and the claimant can show good cause) or to provide final income figures for 2018/19 (if renewal was done by 31 July 2019 using an estimate).

TRUSTS:

Deadline for registering Trusts with a tax consequence in 2018/19 on HMRC Trust Registration Service. Tax consequence includes Income Tax, Capital Gains Tax, Inheritance Tax, Stamp Duty Land Tax amongst others.

Mrs K H Gigg FCA

Caution: The information listed above is for general guidance only. You should neither act, nor refrain from action, on the basis of any such information. You should take appropriate professional advice on your particular circumstances because the application of laws and regulations will vary depending on particular circumstances and because laws and regulations undergo frequent change. Whilst I endeavour to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, neither I nor my firm shall be liable in damages (including, without limitation, damages for loss of business or loss of profits) arising in contract, tort or otherwise from any information contained in it, or from any action or decision taken as a result of using any such information. © Kathryn Gigg 2019



Kathryn Gigg

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CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

I have been asked so many times would I do a workshop? Well, here's your chance? First time ever! Tuesday December 10th 3.30pm at Brancaster Village Hall.

Materials provided unless you wish to bring anything to personalise. Mulled wine and mince pies included. £25 and you can take your work of art home with you.

Advance Booking essential. Numbers strictly limited and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Gary Bocking, Heligan House Flowers
01485 210408 bocking554@btinternet.com

Hunstanton's Festive Funday with Christmas Lights Switch-on

Sunday 1 December 2019 from 12 noon - 5pm

A great fun-filled family day is planned to take place in Hunstanton on Sunday 1st December to celebrate the Christmas Lights Switch On so make sure you have the date in your diary!

From 12 noon onwards, Hunstanton's High Street will be filled with festive food and drink stalls including the ever-popular Bucket List – Norfolk. The town will be alight with Christmas window displays, entertainment including fairground rides, Santa's Grotto at the Princess Theatre all afternoon, seasonal brass band music from Hunstanton's Concert Band at 1pm and a host of talented musicians performing on the mobile stage at the far end of the High Street from 2pm onwards.

An exciting new attraction for visitors situated outside the Town Hall is the Giant Walk-In Snow Globe where the whole family can pose for a photo, face-painting is on offer next door at the Tourist Information Centre and inside the Town Hall you will find a large Christmas Craft Fair for that special Christmas gift.

Mrs Claus and her helpers will be at the Library between 2-3pm for a free lantern making workshop for children (bookable in advance). At the nearby Community Centre you will find traditional fun and games for all the family, Hartbeeps entertainment for the youngsters and children's yoga hosted by the Cloud Cabin then follow the signs to the Lower Spinney where there are miniature rescue donkeys, music and refreshments.

To help the day along, the amazing King and Queen of Snow Stiltwalkers will be greeting visitors around the town and joining in the children's lantern parade from the library up to St Edmund's Church where everyone can visit the charity stalls and enjoy some warming refreshments before the start of the Carol Service at 4pm.

At the end of the Carol Service we begin the Grand Light Parade from St Edmund's Church with the Stiltwalkers leading everyone to the Princess Theatre to meet the Dick Whittington panto stars and switch the theatre tree lights on before moving back up the High Street to watch the Town panto characters and mayor Tony Bishopp switch on the Town Tree Lights!

As if all that excitement wasn't enough, there will be a host of other activities for friends and families to enjoy during the afternoon including a fun children's Reindeer Hunt, an exhibition of the entries to the Children's Christmas Art competition, the opportunity to engage in some 'tea duelling' at Georgie's Cafe in the High Street and some surprise performers around the town.

This event has been organised by Hunstanton Town Council alongside a dedicated group of volunteers from the local community and sponsored by businesses and organisations from the local and wider area.

Our grateful thanks to SJP Solicitors, Mr Bun the Baker, Hunstanton's Rotary Club and Shan's Fabrics for their contributions and all other sponsors named in the Festive Funday leaflet where you can find a full timetable of events. Leaflets are available from the Hunstanton Tourist Information Office or online at www.hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk



Festive King's Lynn

Shop, eat, drink, enjoy!



28 Nov
Christmas lights
switch on



from 28 Nov
Festive Thursdays
late night shopping



7 Dec
Festive farmers'
market



28 Nov - 24 Dec
Festive Fair (Thu - Sun)
Tuesday Market Place

For the latest events and activities visit discoverkingslynn.com/festive



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Hunstanton & District Civic Society

Remembrance Sunday

After the church service and the laying of the wreaths at the War Memorial, the Civic Society joined forces with the Town Council in hosting the reception for those returning to the Town Hall including the contingent of the 67th SOS. It was a poignant occasion because the ceremony almost coincided with the 67th anniversary of the activation of the unit at Sculthorpe in 1952. Several of the airmen had come to Hunstanton in a coach but others had come by car with their families.



The pictures show John Maiden, Brian Holmes and David Jones with Lt Col William J Kelly and the 67th, outside the Heritage Centre and the second shows the Kelly, Presslers and Giguere families outside the Sea Life Centre.



Talks Programme

In October, Dr Andrew Tullett gave an entertaining talk about some of the coastal treasures in this area of West Norfolk. Our AGM takes place on Wednesday 11 December starting at 6.30 prior to a light buffet and a selection of Amusing and Meaningful Poems given by Heacham resident, Doreen Reed. A lovely way to relax and let all that lovely food do what it has to do! Because the election is taking place on the following day and the Town Hall being set up as a Polling Station, we shall be assembling in the Basement which we feel sure will be just fine. Access to the Basement is either by the short stairs and slope down to the left of the Town Hall or via the lift accessible through the normal entrance to the Town Hall. The full programme of talks and much more information can be viewed on our web site at www.hunstantoncivicsociety.org.uk

Heritage Centre

The Centre will be open from 12 pm to 5 pm and participating in the special Christmas Funday on Sunday 1st December. Do pop along and make our volunteers (and yourselves) happy! Preparations are being made for the shared services to the ground and first floors to be separated during December and January prior to re-opening in mid-February. We welcome any groups for special tours of the Heritage Centre - contact our Secretary Mrs Sheila Kent on 01485 534200.

Planning

It was good to see so many people attend the public consultation event on 7 November and take the opportunity to talk to Wayne Hemingway, Matthew Henry, other officers from the Borough and Sarah Hassan who is leading the project to redevelop the library services.

Home delivery service launched by Fishers

Fishers of Hunstanton recently launched their home delivery service, which is proving very popular, with a selection of menu options available. Simply call them on 01485 532487 to place your order and then pay their friendly delivery driver, by either cash or card.

No delivery charge for people living in the Hunstanton area, with all other deliveries charged at £3 within a 5 mile radius of Fishers. Minimum order of £7 in Hunstanton and £10 other areas.

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You can check out the delivery menu on their website:

www.fishershunstanton.co.uk



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Every Saturday & Sunday in December

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Heating with wood



Choosing to heat your home with wood is a great option. Not only is wood a renewable fuel, but in North West Norfolk it's readily available.

Considering the amount of work involved in full-time wood heating, it makes sense to burn efficient fires.

Hardwoods are generally better for burning in wood burning stoves than softwoods. As a rule of thumb hardwoods are produced by slow-growing deciduous trees and have a greater density than the faster growing softwoods from evergreen trees. Since hardwood logs are heavier than the same sized softwood log they will provide you with

much more heat output – up to 50%. Using hardwood logs means having to feed the fire less often than with softwood logs.

It is best to only use dried, fully seasoned chopped wood logs with a moisture content of less than 20%. Well-seasoned logs make a distinctive 'clack' rather than a dull 'thud' when knocked together. They will also feel much lighter than an unseasoned log and the harder the wood the longer the seasoning.

Proper storage is important too, wood should be stacked off the ground with plenty of space between the logs to allow air movement and with the top covered to keep the weather out.

On a visit to Sandringham Sawmill, Manager Paul told me that all the wood they sell is kiln dried and is ideal for stoves and open fires. Their logs are stored in a dry barn and Paul is pictured (left) with six-foot tall Ben at the log store and also by one of their one cubic metre boxes (above).

Logs are sold in bags, by the box (that holds approximately one cubic metre) or a trailer load of approximately two and a half cubic metres.

Paul can be contacted at the Sawmill on 01485 543641





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CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER - 4pm

Want to support the local community and shop local this Christmas?

A Christmas Market will be held in the Village Centre, Dersingham on Friday 6th Dec between 6pm – 9pm. There will be 30+ stalls with a mixture of crafts and small local businesses selling a variety of gifts, decorations and cards. There will also be Christmas carols, refreshments and a bar to add to the festive atmosphere.

The pop up bar will be serving alcohol and mulled wine and the café will be serving burgers and hotdogs, hot drinks, snacks and cakes. All profits from these will be going towards the Village Hall fundraising.

fadetogrey

Dersingham
Christmas Market
Fri 6th Dec 6 - 9pm

free entry, free parking
30+ stalls selling a great variety of gifts, decorations and cards

Dersingham Village Centre (village hall),
83 Manor Road, PE31 6LN

Come and Sing Mozart Requiem with The Yorke Trust

The Yorke Trust's first Come and Sing day will be held on Saturday 29 February 2020 in The Old Chapel, Creak Road, South Creak, NR21 1JF. This is a chance for anyone to come along and have a go at one of the finest works in the repertoire. No previous experience is necessary as there will be plenty of people in the chorus who know the piece well.

The workshop will be led by the conductor, Christopher McMullen-Laird and the solo parts will be sung by students from music conservatoires.

The Come and Sing day will be followed by a free concert of Mozart Requiem at 6pm in the Old Chapel.

More information and registration forms are available on The Yorke Trust website

We are grateful to Hayes and Storr for supporting this event.



Festive Friday
CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT
FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER

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Look up!

Is your roofline ready to face winter, asks Geoff Parker of West Norfolk Glass

For most people, West Norfolk Glass is associated with high quality double glazing, and quite rightly as we have been serving North Norfolk for 52 years. But, in addition to a wide spectrum of windows and doors to suit all property styles and budgets, did you know that we are also experts in flat roof, roofline and guttering, an important aspect of most homes.

The two are interlinked as a blocked, leaking gutter or rotten fascia will invariably cause damage over the long-term to the window and door fittings which sit below.

With the recent wet period, it's certainly worth taking a look upwards to check for any potential weathering issues which could impact the value of your home if not attended to before winter sets in. Hunstanton is famous for its north-easterly winds and we certainly tend to feel it if our property develops a draught or leak, so at the first signs give us a call to take a look.

Christmas is just ahead and as a thank you to our valued customers, we have a special gift of a free Karcher Window Cleaner on all orders to the value of £2,000 or more placed before 31 January 2020, with installation before 31 March 2020. Most of us like receiving something for nothing, and this is a gift that we genuinely know will help keep your home improvements looking great.

So this month, before you start to focus on the end of year celebrations, take a moment and survey your property, then give us a



call if your home needs a little TLC. As a second generation family firm, our longevity and expertise is second to none and we hope to bring a little Christmas cheer to you and yours.

West Norfolk Glass, Hereford Way, King's Lynn PE30 4JD,
tel: 01553 763164, westnorfolkglass.co.uk

The Barking Bugle

2019 has been a very sad year for us all at The Barking Bugle. In the spring we had to woof goodbye to my beloved brother Gizmo, who was our Events' and Entertainment Editor. He was the naughty one out of us all who loved beer, wild pawties and football; he was such a great character and is so missed. If that was not enough, only a few weeks ago Frodo Cavalier made his way to The Bridge (that's heaven for us doggies). Frodo was the founder of the Barking Bugle, my hero and my little paws are wet with tears as I write these words.



It has been a devastating time for all of us and I know that there will be many of you out there who will also be grieving over the loss of a Fur Baby. It can be especially difficult at Christmas when everyone expects us to be tail wagging jolly.

At the Barking Bugle we believe that all doggies (and other pets) go to Rainbow Bridge where one day we will be reunited with our humans.

The Rainbow Bridge Poem

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigour. Those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent. His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

Author unknown.

My heart goes out to everyone out there who is going through similar sadness as we have this year! If you would like someone to speak to the Blue Cross have a Pet Bereavement Support Service which is available every day from 8:30 am - 8:30 pm. Telephone - 0800 0966606.

The holidays can also be a time for you to celebrate the love you shared, all the joy you had together and all the fun.

**Merry Woofmass and a Yappy New Year.
Woofs Pupstar x**



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Hunstanton EyeCare blog

Congratulations Nicky!

I expect many of you can remember your first day in a new job? The anxious excitement, trying to find the new location, sort out the transport, and then find your place amongst new colleagues. As Hunstanton Eyecare, owned by Mr Leach, is a lovely place to work, we don't have a great turnover of staff, but circumstances change and over the last two years we have welcomed Nicky and Michelle to our team.

It may appear that the receptionist job in the Opticians is a cushy number where you sit all day chatting to people and answering the phone, making appointments and tea. Well most of that is true, especially the tea, but in our small team all staff need to be quite versatile and take on many different tasks. Not only do they have to learn the reception duties but conduct some of the peripheral tests that give information to the Optometrist during a sight exam. Spectacles have to be ordered and assembled, so optical knowledge is vital to do the job correctly, rules and regs of the optical / NHS world have to be understood and followed to the letter, and the care of patients and their eyesight must be given the very best attention and courtesy. All this is quite a lot to take on for the newcomer especially as Nicky and Michelle were also new to the optical world. It is vitally important that staff are given appropriate training to do their new job competently.

Over the last year, Nicky has been studying with the WCSM, Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers. WCSM is one of the 110 Livery Companies of the City of London that comprise of ancient and modern trade associations and guilds. They were originally formed as early as the 12th Century, to guarantee that a member was trustworthy and fully qualified, and that the goods they produced were of reputable quality. The aim was two-fold, to protect the public and to protect members from charlatans. Sounds like the forerunner to "check-a-trade.com"! From the start the Companies cared for their members in sickness and old age. Today they support both members and wider charitable aims and activities, including



those supporting education and training.

The WCSM was founded by Royal Charter in 1629 and is the oldest existing optical body in the world, they reside at Apothecaries Hall in Black Friars Lane. The purpose of WCSM is to support the prevention and treatment of vision impairment and to be the voice of optics in the City of London. In the 17th century, the only assistance for poor vision was a pair of spectacles, hence the name, but it meant that standards of production were controlled and ensured training for the next generation. Today, the company has evolved to meet modern day challenges, and hence the creation of educational courses for our new Optical Assistants. Nicky's course was by "distance learning" so she had to put in many hours of study in her own time. This was backed up by practice during her working day and regular assessment. On top of that there was the exam, we shut her away for the day upstairs and undisturbed, except for the tea-breaks. Nicky passed the Level 2 in Optical Support and we are all very proud of her. The photo shows Nicky receiving her certificate from the Master of WCSM at Apothecaries Hall in November. Congratulations Nicky!

As it is that time of year again, all of us at Hunstanton Eyecare wish everyone a Happy Christmas and good fortune for the New Year.

Annette

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Just a Dog

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, its just a dog." Or "that's a lot of money for just a dog". They don't understand the distance travelled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog".

Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog".

Many hours have passed, and my only company was "just a dog" But I did not once feel slighted.

Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog" and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too think its "just a dog" then you probably understand phrases like "just a friend, just a sunrise", or "just a promise".

"Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy."

"Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that makes me a better person.

Because of "just a dog" I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future.

So, for me and folks like me, "it's not "just a dog" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday they can understand that's it's not "just a dog" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a man" or "just a woman".

So, the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog", just smile, because they "just don't understand."



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RSPCA launches festival appeal to help thousands of animals this Christmas

The RSPCA received more than 3,700 calls about needy animals in East of England last Christmas - with Norfolk coming second to Essex with 784 calls logged.



The RSPCA has launched its festive appeal the Sleigh to help needy animals this winter, as it reveals last Christmas Day was its busiest for five years.

On 25 December 2018, the charity received 934 calls to its cruelty line - the highest number for five years and almost a third more than in 2017.

Last December, there were more than 61,000 calls coming through to the charity's cruelty line, up by more than 5,000 the previous year. Of these calls, 3,791 were logged in the East of England.

Whilst most people tuck into their Christmas dinners, the charity's inspectors will be working 24 hours a day rescuing animals from pets to wildlife and bringing them to safety.

Some animals can spend weeks, months and sometimes years in our care receiving the treatment and rehabilitation they need.

There were more than 5,000 animals taken in over the Christmas period last year, including more than 2,100 cats and more than 1,000 dogs, as well as hundreds of wildlife.

Dermot Murphy, Chief Inspectorate Officer, said: "Our cruelty line received more than 900 calls on Christmas Day last year and our rescue officers are always out working through the festive period to help animals in need.

"Hospital staff will be working to provide veterinary care for injured and sick animals and our animal centre staff will be making sure the hundreds of pets and wild animals in our care over Christmas are well looked after.

"Rescue work doesn't stop just because it's Christmas. We know that animals need our help all-year round and our officers are out in all weathers helping save pets from abuse and neglect, and rescuing wildlife who may be injured or in need of assistance. We are expecting to take in more than 10,000 animals this winter which means the officers, vets and animal care staff are braced for another busy festive period.

"We can't do this on our own - we rely on our generous supporters to help the many animals who come into our care this Christmas in urgent need whether it is for veterinary care, medicine, food or a safe, comfortable and warm bed. We are asking animal lovers to Stock the Sleigh for the RSPCA and help us to care for these animals in desperate need this winter."

It costs around £670,000 to run an RSPCA centre for a year. You can make a generous donation to Stock the Sleigh and help animals in their care.

£7 could keep an animal warm with a soft and cosy blanket

£15 could give the gift of comfort - a warm blanket, treats and toys

£25 could give the gift of safety - it could help answer a phone call, provide a safe bed and food

£40 could give the gift of care - providing essential veterinary care and medicines

This winter, the RSPCA expects to take in more than 10,000 animals in need. To help them deliver vital supplies to thousands of abused, neglected and abandoned animals left out in the cold this Christmas, visit www.rspca.org.uk/giftofkindness and watch your virtual gift fill up the sleigh with a grateful wag from Sprout the dog. Sprout, Tink and the other festive characters feature in the RSPCA's Christmas sweatshirts: www.rspca.org.uk/christmasmerch.

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An interview with Cllr. Charles Joyce

Charles is a Labour Party Borough Councillor who holds the seat of South and West Lynn. Charles' role as a councillor spans over 20 years – he was first elected to the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk on the day that Tony Blair became Prime Minister – May 1st 1997 – but left in 2007 before being reinstated in 2011. He was a Norfolk County councillor from 2001 to 2009. *Town and Around* sat down for an exclusive interview with Charles covering a number of contentious topics, such as the issue of the housing application at Knights' Hill, the future of the Alive Corn Exchange and the KLIC building in King's Lynn that is the subject of an independent investigation after the building's operator, Norfolk and Waveney Enterprise Services (NWES), failed to repay money due in November of last year after being loaned £2.75m by King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council.

Town and Around: As a borough councillor, what do you see are the priorities for you now?

Charles: That's a difficult question to answer – but trying to ensure the borough council in particular is honest and becomes honest so that you can actually trust them. So, even if they make a mistake, it's an honest mistake.

I want to make the council trustworthy because the council's reputation is in the pits. The KLIC has really caused that. Regarding Knights' Hill – can you trust anything council do is a question a lot of people ask. The most important thing is to make them honest so that people can trust their decisions.

Town and Around: We're at a difficult time now as we're at the verge of a national election, but if we could go over some of the cases you've been working on recently such as the KLIC building – what's the progress on that matter?

Charles: The scrutiny on the background has more or less been done but there is one question what has yet to be asked – when the cabinet made the decision, who actually was in on the pre-cabinet discussions? And that question hasn't been asked by anybody. It is beyond doubt that the governing side were exclusive in every part of the KLIC from day one. Question is, when was day one?

The council as a whole did agree to the KLIC building – as it was a good idea, but it wasn't fully explained so the councillors who weren't involved in the minutiae of the detail were putting their trust in the inner circle. Some people thought it would be like



Dragon's Den with new businesses nurtured and guided from initial ideas.

The internal investigation into the matter hasn't reached a conclusion so far – this has been extended from September to December. I think they will come to a conclusion, but I just wonder how much whitewash there is on the brush. The external investigation – a chairperson has been elected but it hasn't started.

Town and Around: Do you get the impression it's being kicked into the long grass?

Charles: Oh, yes. There is an issue that if they kick it into the long grass for too long there's one or two who may just say 'I've had enough of this' and it will then become a much more formal enquiry. I don't rule out a police enquiry. I know the internal people are doing their best, but I'm not convinced the administration see the urgency of what this is.

Town and Around: You're on the planning committee, and there have been some contentious issues recently such as the 600 houses at Knights' Hill. What's your take on that situation?

Charles: I think that the decision taken in March was a blatant party-political decision. Not to say that I don't agree with it. They put Knights' Hill into the local development plan, so if it's in there and a developer comes forward... it was an outline permission, pure and simple, and it is very difficult to not back an outline application if it's already been allocated. The principle of developing has been accepted. Whether it should or not is a totally different matter.

Town and Around: So, the Local Development Framework (LDF) was somewhere around 2011 and the site allocations were in 2016, were there any red lights showing or objections coming forward at that stage?

Charles: Oh, yes there were people who were concerned about it. I wasn't particularly involved in the LDF but I made the point, 'why are you putting all this housing in a small, confined area and you're leaving the rural villages exposed?'

They're losing their schools – this is the issue, you lose your school, you lose your village as your community is broken up. You can go from Swaffham to Downham Market, and then to Wisbech and the only primary school you'll come across is in Downham. Whereas previously there were loads of schools. It's the same issue in the north of the borough.

I can see people being opposed to a new town being put into their village, but would they want a few extra houses? Yes, they would. Because the local plan runs down the King's Lynn to Ely railway line, which is where the majority of the housing is going other than Hunstanton and Heacham, it leaves the Fens free. Why weren't the Fens used for development? Terrington, Tilney, Marshland, for example? All those schools are under pressure.

Town and Around: We're currently sitting at the Alive Corn Exchange in King's Lynn and there is allegedly going to be spending of £1.6m on this building by the Borough Council to put in two cinema screens on the top floor. What's your take on it?

Charles: It's a waste of money. Total and utter waste of money. I think the person who put the best argument against it was Conservative Josh Low that it wasn't something for his generation – young people don't have the money – and there are alternatives to a cinema. Just think, 20 years ago not many people were using the internet and now you can go into any entertainment or profession and the internet is changing it. I don't have an issue with the borough council running along hard business lines and I don't have an issue with them owning a business. But the Corn Exchange is not used enough. If it's going to make money it needs to be used every night because that's what a business would do. Not enough people come to this place to make it a viable entity at the moment. They need to get the bums on the seats and get the money through the bar.

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Political comment

Richard Bird

We live in a wonderful part of the U.K. and there are lots of benefits, low crime, low vandalism, beautiful countryside and much more. However, that should not stop us all trying to improve it all and it's the job of the opposition parties and the local press to bring to the attention of all in authority those items that can be improved further.

In Hunstanton I note that the land off of Oasis Way, known locally as 'The Isherwood Land', has finally got a sign up stating 'sold'. This eyesore has been a blot on the map for over 30 years and if it finally gets sold and developed, I believe it will enhance the landscape. The old Kit Kat site has been a mess for about 20 years and it has finally got a building plan that could be acceptable, better than this ongoing controversial area continuing unresolved for ever more.

Finally there is movement from the various development enquiries for the Bus Station site, the redundant Infant School, car parking areas by the Azam building, the area of sea front known as 'The South Promenade', the antiquated Oasis, and a lot more besides.

Now I know a lot of folks will not like the proposals but at least there is movement, something we haven't seen for years. I for one applaud it, if you have some useful arguments about it all, and I am sure some do, you have your opportunities to register them; why not lobby your Town & Borough Councillors, that's what they are there for, to listen to you, and if you can, convince them they should convey your thoughts and wishes to the powers that be. If you feel they are not doing the job properly, bear that in mind when the next local elections occur. If all else fails advise the local press - at least you will have aired your position publicly.

My one observation is that much of this sell off and development will benefit KL&WNBC immensely in terms of finance with my rough estimate of about £5m going into their coffers and I see no direct benefit to the residents of Hunstanton and its surrounding areas. Yes it would be great to have a new County Library and a new Boro' owned Oasis leisure centre but all of the other development is quite obviously a money making exercise for the Boro', with little or no local benefit. And of course, in the absence of a proper walk, cycle, train, bus or other service the issue of congestion and parking will always be a challenge to resolve.

The village of Ingoldisthorpe has the first in Borough 'Self Build Site' and half the plots have been sold very quickly. This idea is not new, to buy land and build your dream home yourself cutting out the middleman to achieve your bespoke home to get great value for money. However, I must state that I worked on this principle project when I was a Boro' Councillor and, as nearly always, red tape, and overzealous officials got in the way. All I had to show for years of meetings was a 64 page document with terrifying amounts of legislative hoops to jump through.

After coercing the KL&WNBC into sponsoring and paying for a report that recommended the building of more employment commercial premises in and around Hunstanton, the Boro' threw out my case to build, with the lady Member from Dersingham and the now voted out Cabinet Member suggesting that I had made up the whole scenario "with my mates in the pub". I am pleased to report that in both cases: Self Build and Commercial premises, private initiatives have prevailed with both going ahead almost despite the Boro' Council. Hopefully, there will be more self-build sites and commercial development allowing these opportunities to flourish.

For years I have been listening to local folks complaining that there are precious few all year round, quality career opportunities with affordable quality accommodation, more quality commercial premises in and around Hunstanton, not exclusively K.L. could help a lot.



Hunstanton Bridge Club

Henry Head

It's never too late for you to learn to play Bridge and join in the great social life that it brings. A double benefit: make new friends and keep the mind active.

Here at Hunstanton Bridge Club we are a friendly group of people always looking to welcome new members, whether you are a complete beginner, have been playing for only a few months, or for several years.

We meet at the Hunstanton Conservative Club just off the High St on Monday evenings for Duplicate, and on Friday afternoons we offer Bridge lessons to people who want to start playing, to people wanting to progress a bit further and for those who prefer to play in the afternoon. If you don't have a Bridge partner we can help you to find one.

Banish the fear. Don't be apprehensive about going to a club thinking that everyone will know more than you. All levels can play together and have success and fun.

If you would like to know more please contact Robert Smith 01328 822120.

HOW GOOD IS YOUR CARDPLAY?

In Bridge there are several ways of developing tricks and one of the most popular is the 'Finesse'. This is where for example you lead towards a suit containing the Ace and Queen and play the Queen hoping it will win if the King is not behind it. However sometimes the bidding will indicate that the 'Finesse' is bound to fail so you have to look for an alternative plan. Consider this hand:

	S	Q 8 7			
	H	A Q 10			
	D	7 6 5 2			
S	3 2	C	K J 9	S	A 5
H	7 5 4 3			H	K 8 2
D	K Q J 4			D	A 10 8 3
C	10 7 5	S	K J 10 9 6 4	C	Q 8 4 2
		H	J 9 6		
		D	9		
		C	A 6 3		

East opened 1NT and South overcalled 2S. North being the enthusiastic type raised to 4S. West led the Diamond King and followed with the Queen. Declarer ruffed, led a trump to East's A and ruffed the diamond return. A top spade showed trumps were 2-2. South led the Heart J and as expected it lost to East's K so 3 tricks were lost already. Another diamond return was ruffed and now South has to play clubs without losing a trick. East had opened 1NT showing 12-14 points and had already showed 11 in the Spade A, the Heart K and the Diamond A so looked certain to hold the Club Q and hence a normal finesse will fail. However the presence of the 9 in dummy just gives another possibility. South went to dummy with a heart and led the Club J which East naturally covered with the Q and South won with the A. Now South returned a Club towards the K 9 hoping that he could finesse the 10 in the West hand and, bingo, made his contract. This is known as a backward finesse.

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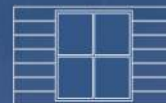
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CHRISTMAS AT QUEENSDOWN

A Childhood Memory of Christmas Past

Diana Hallard

I remember back in the late 1950s my younger sister Marilyn was so excited about Christmas that she had literally made herself ill and was running a high temperature. She was laying by the fire in a 'bedchair' (two armchairs pushed together).

Our living room was enormous, and, unless you huddled very close to the marble fireplace, you froze. There was central heating in those days but only in modern houses like our cousins' in Chingford, not rambling, old Victorian houses such as ours in Queensdown Road, Clapton.

Months before Christmas, Gran would have made the Christmas puddings and Christmas cake. We all had to have a wish and give the pudding a stir but Mum drew the line at putting in the traditional threepenny bits as she thought it was far too dangerous and unhygienic.

When he could no longer stand us getting on at him, Dad would sigh, and with a look of resignation, he would get down the old, dusty box of decorations that lived on the top of the wardrobe.

What a job poor Dad had putting up the miles of paper chains we had made as the ceiling was so high! Muttering under his breath, he would risk life and limb to climb the ladder, knowing that even when he reached the top rung, the ceiling would still be just out of reach and he would have to stand precariously on tiptoe.

No matter how tatty and ancient the decoration was, it still had its rightful place on our Christmas tree. Being older than Marilyn, I tried valiantly to make our tree look like the one we had admired in Selfridges window during our annual visit to see Santa Claus, but it was a wasted effort because the minute my back was turned, Marilyn would shove on everything in sight, including great dollops of cotton wool 'snow'.

Dad worked for the Crown Agents in Moorgate. Every year, a few days before Christmas, he would go to nearby Whitecross Street Market, on a mission to buy the turkey. He would be under strict instructions from Mum to make sure it was a hen bird as for some mysterious reason, she thought they were superior. In those days the turkey had feathers and internal organs intact. Marilyn and I would watch with ghoulish fascination as the newspaper was laid on the worktop and the turkey was first stripped of its feathers, then drawn. What a gruesome sight!

Mum would make her special fudge at Christmas. She would call us when it was ready for 'testing' as that was the bit we liked best. When the mixture had cooked for some time, she would take a spoonful out of the saucepan and drop it into a cup of cold water. If it held together, it was ready. The fudge was delicious at this stage, what a shame it had to set and go all powdery, sickly sweet and dry but we still munched our way through tins of it...

The Sunday before Christmas was the night of our church Nativity play. I think I played Mary for 3 years running as I knew the part off by heart and, more to the point, the previous 'Mary' had outgrown the blue robes and discovered boys. I remember my family sitting in the front pews smiling encouragingly, and Mum telling me not to forget to 'speak

up' so that the old ladies at the back could hear. It was so bitterly cold in church that we could see our breath coming out in little puffs as we spoke.

When Christmas Eve finally arrived, the atmosphere in our house was electric.

Before we clamoured into bed, we hung up our pillowslips, each bearing our name. I would have been horrified if Santa had got mixed up and given me Marilyn's presents by mistake – she had asked for a cowboy outfit and a train set, not to mention the gerbils...

At around five thirty we would be frenziedly ripping paper off presents, always making sure that we left the biggest parcel for last. In the early years we would rush like lunatics until we were down to the tangerine and nuts at the bottom, but as we grew older, we tried to open each present slowly, knowing we would have to wait a whole year before we could do it again.

On Christmas morning, for a treat, we had a special breakfast in the living room instead of the kitchen. We always started with half a grapefruit with a cherry on the top.

Meanwhile, the turkey had been cooking over night and by the time we got up around eight o'clock (as we would have drifted back to sleep after all the excitement of opening presents), there would be a gorgeous aroma wafting throughout the house.

Together, Mum and Gran cooked a wonderful Christmas dinner. The table looked beautiful with crackers and the centre piece of our angel chimes which turned as it heated from the lighting candles below.

The adults drank a glass of Sauterne wine with their Christmas dinner. It was very sweet and quite warm, while Marilyn and I had Corona lemonade which was delivered to our door every week in bottles with a metal device and stopper. Finally, the pudding would be brought in alight with blue flames of evaporating rum, topped with a sprig of holly.

After dinner, we needed no prompting to help with the clearing away and washing up as we knew that once the Queen's speech was over we could give out our 'tree presents'. These weren't expensive gifts but they were somehow more special than the pillowslip presents. We loved to see our Mum and Dad's faces when they opened our gifts; they always seemed so pleased with them, no matter what we had bought them with our pocket money.

The rest of the day was spent watching all the good programmes on the BBC and at night we had cold turkey and pickles by candlelight...

Then at around midnight, we went to bed happily, knowing that tomorrow held another treat in store when we would be going to visit our cousins in Chingford and as usual, were bound to have a good time.

How snug it felt knowing there was no school for another whole two weeks. We would try and make our Christmas last as long as possible and it wasn't until Mum had squeezed the last drop of soup out of the turkey carcass and Dad had gone back to work that we realised it was all over for yet another year...



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in the last six months alone, Rural Broadband are currently working with the government-subsidised Better Broadband Scheme who are aiming to deliver efficient and affordable connectivity for homes and

businesses who cannot access more than 2Mbps.

Richard adds: "We're required to provide those eligible with at least 10Mbps, but we surpass that with an average of 22Mbps - which is funded by the

government."

The company has recently provided off-site broadband and WIFI services for outdoor events such as the Sandringham Flower Show and the Royal Norfolk Show, enabling stallholders to take card payments, a crucial element as we evolve toward a cashless society. On top of this, they have installed tracking systems on coastal reed-cutters, keep safe boats on the Norfolk Broads and have linked remote offices.

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Panto Time!

DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS WONDERFUL CAT AT THE PRINCESS THEATRE

Following the huge success of Snow White last year, the Princess Theatre Hunstanton invites you to join them for a pirate, pussycat and rat-packed panto party in Laaannndaaaaan Town.

Dick Whittington's heading to town to seek his fortune – he's heard the streets are paved with gold. But when he gets there, it's hard to see the gold beneath the grime and King Rat is out to get him!

And that's just the start of his adventures. With his trusty cat in tow and pirate ships on the horizon, Dick's going to need a little help from you if he's going to win the day.

Dick Whittington is directed by Tom Rolfe and in the title role is Tom Shiels whose theatre credits include: Where is Peter Rabbit? (The Old Laundry Theatre), Spring Awakening (Edinburgh Festival) and Cinderella (Parkway Theatre, Cleethorpes).



Tom is delighted to be playing the role of Dick Whittington at the Princess Theatre and he will be helped along his way by his cat Tommy played by Macy Hodgson.



Hannah Kiss is Alice, the leading female and love interest

in the story. Shortly after graduating Hannah played the role of Wrench in Andrew Lloyd Webber's roller skating musical Starlight Express. Whilst there she covered the roles of Buffy, Ashley, Joule, and Volta - and now carries her roller skates everywhere she goes!

Hannah is delighted to be playing Alice for Tony Peers Productions in Hunstanton this year.



Queen Rat is played by Chiara Castania, an all-round performing artist originally from a small northern Italian town called Iseo. Chiara took up ballet at 5 years old following her mother; a former ballerina.

After winning scholarships at both A.L.R.A. in SW London and Bodyworks Dance Studios in Cambridge; she succeeded in acquiring a succession of leading roles with a variety of major cruise companies and has fulfilled her dream role as 'Bombalurina' in Cats at the Spa Theatre, Leamington Spa.

Chiara is very excited to be playing Queen Rat and is looking forward to being frightfully bad!

Jessica Spanier plays Fairy Bowbells and is delighted to be returning to Tony Peers Productions for her sixth season, this time reprising her role of 'Fairy Bowbells' in Dick Whittington at the Princess Theatre in Hunstanton. As well as her stage work Jessica's film credits include Everybody's Talking About Jamie (Warp Films) and Monica's Angel (Featherfoot Productions)

Celebrating their 18th pantomime are Lynn and Lee Carrol who are playing Sweet and Simple whose bickering onstage boy / girl relationship has won them many admirers making



them firmly established as panto favourites. they are proud recipients of a Variety Club award for comedy and previous roles include the Good Robbers in Robin Hood, Chinese Policemen in Aladdin & Captain & Mate in Dick Whittington, as well as many principal solo roles.



Our cover picture this month is of Pantomime Dame Mervyn Francis. It is a really special year for Mervyn as he celebrates 50 years in showbiz.

Town and Around spoke to Mervyn and we started by asking him how he got into the business.

"I guess it was in the blood, as my mother had been a professional dancer. As a child I would entertain the neighbours kids with shows in my parents garden.

"Then in my early teens, while attending the Evelyn Crees school of Music, speech and drama, I would appear in local amateur productions in my home town of Redditch in Worcestershire."

Mervyn turned professional at 18 with a holiday park season, on

the Isle of Wight and he started his professional theatre career in 1969, with his first panto at Alhambra Theatre Bradford with Vince Hill.

"So how did you get your big break?" we asked

"Well, after numerous auditions I secured a four year contract with the Robert Luff organisation, and was in constant employment going between the spectacular Bachelors show, and the Black and White Minstrel show.

"The first time I played Dame was as Dame Tilly Tart in Goldilocks at the Gaiety Theatre 'Barry Island in 1997.

"Since then most of my time as been spent equally between building my reputation as a pantomime Villain and as a Dame.

"This will be my fourth season at Hunstanton, and my second consecutive season as Dame; my two previous roles at the theatre were Abanazer (villain) in Aladdin in 2015/16 and Baron Hardup in 2017/18 and I am delighted to appear in Hunstanton once again to celebrate my 50th year in Showbiz.

"I have to say, I have never been treated better, the warm welcome you get from Brian Hallard and his staff is second to none."

Dick Whittington and his Wonderful Cat runs from Saturday 30th November 2019 to Wednesday 1st January 2020.





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Aladdin at the King's Lynn Corn Exchange

Let the Genie grant your wish and join us for another magical pantomime at King's Lynn Corn Exchange, from the team behind last year's production of Sleeping Beauty, Jordan Productions.

We are pleased to announce 5 of our fabulous cast starting with the return of Ian Marr as Dame Widow Twankey, who will once again team up for a hilarious double act with Scott Cripps as Wishee Washee. West End performer Lisa Mathieson will play the title role of Aladdin and Britain's Got Talent star's Twist and Pulse, join the cast as PC's Hip & Hop.

West Norfolk's favourite Dame, Ian Marr, this year as Dame Widow Twankey and our much loved funny man Scott Cripps as Wishee Washee. This is Ian's 18th Christmas in panto around the UK and his 10th Anniversary performing in King's Lynn! Ian's other credits include: Pitlochry 2017 season in High Society, The Ruling Class, Mary Rose and People; Mr Kirkby in That Day We Sang (Victoria Wood); Downton Abbey (ITV); Waking the Dead (BBC); Alan Gregg/The Doctor in Shadowlands (National Tour) to name but a few!

This will be Scott's 7th panto performance here at King's Lynn his West End theatre credits include Billy Elliott; Murdoch in Titanic; Sweeney Todd; Pirates of Penzance; Peter Pan and Doctor Dolittle. He has also toured with productions of Jesus Christ Superstar; Amos in Whistle Down the Wind, High Society; Willard in Footloose, Pharaoh in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. You can also see him on the big screen as an inmate in Paddington 2 dancing alongside Hugh Grant!

A warm King's Lynn welcome to Lisa Mathieson - trained at the Arts Educational Schools London where she graduated with a BA(Hons) Degree in Musical Theatre. Lisa was recently in the original cast of Tim Minchin's Olivier Award winning musical, at The Old Vic. She was Dance Captain in the UK Tour of and was also in the Original West End Cast at the Savoy Theatre, London. She



has starred in the West End production of Love Never Dies, Gotta Sing Gotta Dance, We Will Rock You, amongst many more and has played Aladdin in Aladdin in the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne and The Lighthouse Theatre in Kettering so she has oodles of experience for this role!

Twist & Pulse - Born and bred South Londoners, Ashley Glazebrook (Twist) and Glen Murphy (Pulse), met at the renowned Brits School of Performing Arts. They achieved 2nd place on ITV's Britain's Got Talent (2010), managing to win over both the public and Simon Cowell and his formidable team, with their talent and charm! They make their return to our screens this month with Britain's Got Talent, The Champions.

We are also pleased to announce two more fantastic cast members to join this formidable team above.

Firstly Steven Pinder who will be playing Abanazaar, Steven appeared in our very first panto back in 2010 and again in 2013 we are thrilled to have him return for our 10th panto. Steven is best known for his role in Brookside where he played Max Farnham in the series

from 1990 – 2003. He then moved to theatre and played many roles including the Wizard in Wicked for many years and also toured the UK with this show.

We are also excited to welcome Divine Crosswell, who will be playing our Princess So-Shi. Divine is an actor and dancer and performed in many West End shows including Charlie & The Chocolate Factory, Miss Saigon and South Pacific. She has also appeared on film in Cuban Fury.

Our Magical carpet ride begins on Tuesday 10 December through until Sunday 5 January. Once again, we promise a spectacular show full of music, fun, laughter, stunning special effects and plenty of surprises along the way!

The pantomime is once again kindly sponsored by J & K Glass & Glazing and is in association with KLFM, we would like to thank them both for their continued support.

Aladdin is at the Alive King's Lynn Corn Exchange from Tuesday 10th December to Sunday 5th January 2020.

Tickets are available on 01553 764864 or online at: www.kingslynncornechange.co.uk

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The Hunstanton Pantomime Group presents: Peter Pan Journey to Neverland

At Hunstanton Town Hall this December, Abigail Brown takes on the role of the free-spirited and mischievous young boy who can fly and never grows up: Peter Pan spends his never-ending childhood having adventures on the mythical island of Neverland as the leader of the Lost Boys, interacting with fairies, pirates, mermaids, Native Americans, and occasionally ordinary children from the world ...

Author JM Barrie gifted the rights to Great Ormond Street Hospital in 1929 and ever since then this children's charity has enjoyed a special relationship with the boy who wouldn't grow up and this year The Hunstanton Pantomime's charity this year is the Great Ormond Street Hospital.

With a cast of twenty two plus seven children in each show this is one of the most exciting ventures yet for the company and scriptwriter Elaine Verweymeren has ensured this favourite story has a Hunstanton twist. All of which is illuminated by new stage lighting that was installed this year by Hunstanton Town Council.



Opening in the bedroom at the Darling household the audience will be taken on a journey with swordfights, magic, family fun and the famous Hunstanton Panto UV scene returns!

There are goody bags for all the children in the audience at the seven performances between 27th and 30th December.

Directed by John Wrigley and

Liz Bishopp (who also take on the roles of Bill Jukes and Mr Smee respectively) this panto will not disappoint. Taking on the other major roles are Hunstanton Mayor Tony Bishopp as Captain Hook and Emily Atkins as Wendy.

The remaining company members are: Lucy Ferrer, Lynne Haycock, Millie Ling, Catriona

Hawke, Eve Bodenham, Faith Bodenham, Elaine Verweymeren, Bailey Fisher, Sue Murkett (who also takes on props), Lewis Cleland, Elise Navarro, Gracie Ashley, Macey Jezeph and Imogen Wadsworth.

Front of house is Hunstanton Mayoress Joy Bishopp and Ryan Darby, Michael and Josh Haycock built the set.



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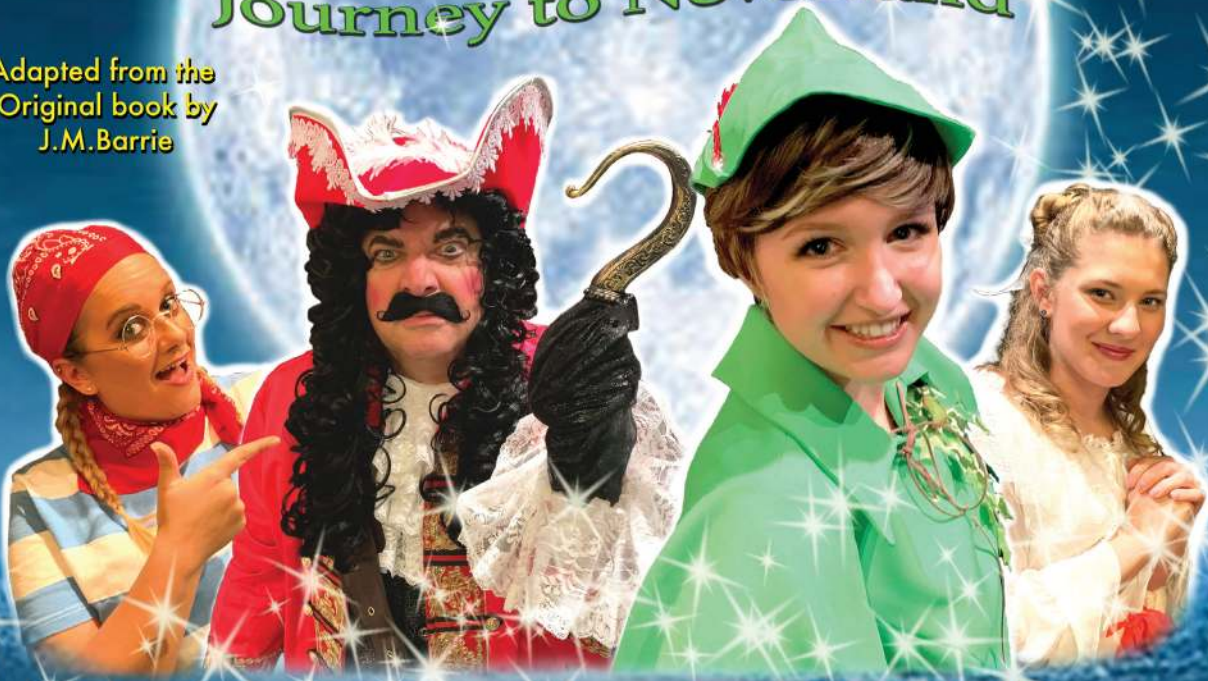
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www.hunstantonpantomime.com facebook: The Hunstanton Pantomime

This amateur production of "Peter Pan" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.

Nature notes with Joanna

Home again!

Having spent the last five weeks in hospital it is great to be at home and able to watch the birds in my garden and to see birds in the area when my son drove me round some of my old areas. I saw my first Pinkfeet of the year stitching their way across the sky, loads of Buzzards flying, one or two Marsh Harriers and at least four unexpected Fulmars along the cliffs, and two Kestrels. Didn't manage any Hares although Peter tried very hard. He has certainly picked up on the years of hearing me say 'look there is a '.....' so if you are trying to teach your family about things do keep on trying, it's amazing what goes in for them to retrieve in future years!!!

There is still a lot of colour in the roadside trees and my *Pyracanthas* are full of berries. There are also plenty of Blackbirds around; Gavin my gardener has seen Fieldfares and Redwing, maybe I'll catch up with them later in the month!

What happened to October?

On 1st October I slid out of bed and because of my newly operated on knee couldn't climb back in. I spent next three days on the floor with sickness and bowels on the run, I couldn't reach the phone or 3 glasses of water! I had some hilarious hallucinations then on Tuesday evening Louise found me in all my muck and glory and got the ambulance in.

The crew thought I could have had a stroke so called on the fire brigade to help put me on the board to get me out of the house! I thought I had dreamt that but it was true and having five fully kitted out firemen standing over me was quite a highlight!

Mind you next week was pretty horrid as I was pumped full of fluids, antibiotics and other drugs as the doctors fought the Sepsis that was attacking my body. The dreams were vicious and the nights endless! I had two attempts at lumbar punctures (the successful one was by the



Marsh harrier by Lawrie Webb - NWT

anesthetist who put me out for my new knee only 5 weeks before).

After nearly 5 weeks flat on my back in bed my body is pretty well hacked so it will be a while before I am back on my feet!

Why am I telling you all about it? If I had had a Care Line bell I wouldn't have been there for 3 days. The Care assistants who have coming in since I got home have urged me to recount my story in the hope that more people will think about the having call bells. They don't restrict you, but if you are on your own they give you peace of mind. I wish I had had a red button at the beginning of October because I wouldn't wish my ordeal on anyone. Another couple of days and I wouldn't be able to tell the tale!

HUNSTANTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

At their first meeting of the winter season, the Hunstanton Gardeners' Association welcomed back Dr Twigs Way, who had previously given a most entertaining talk on garden symbolism in art. Dr Way has interests in archaeology, art and horticulture and is a consultant to Natural England, and her talk on this occasion was on the plant hunter, Ernest Wilson.

The speaker began her talk by describing the work of French missionaries in China's largely unexplored interior during the mid-nineteenth century, when Abbe Jean Pierre David collected many new plant species for the Natural History Museum in Paris, and also observed a previously unknown tree which now bears his name, *Davidia involucre*, also known as the handkerchief tree from the shape of its beautiful white bracts..

In 1899, the twenty three year old botanist, Ernest Wilson, was sent to China by his employer, Veitch Nurseries, to find and collect the handkerchief tree but after an exhausting year of searching, discovered it had been cut down and its timber used to build a house.. However while hunting for specimens in nearby dense woods he stumbled upon another magnificent example of the tree in full bloom and collected many of its nutmeg-shaped seeds which, together with dozens of other previously unknown trees and shrubs, were returned to England and successfully germinated by Veitch Nurseries. Wilson returned to China on three more expeditions over the next ten years and became so well respected as a plant hunter that when in America he was given the nickname 'Chinese' Wilson.

Dr Way illustrated her talk with many examples of plants discovered by Wilson and which can now be found in many gardens, including *Clematis armandii*, the chestnut-red barked *Acer griseum*, *Viburnum davidii*, the beautiful Regal lily, *Cornus kousa*, and several varieties of *Magnolia*. A fine example of the handkerchief tree, which started



Wilson's horticultural adventures in China, can be found in the Botanic Garden of Cambridge University.

Chairman Canny Jones thanked Dr Way for another fascinating talk and announced details of the forthcoming AGM and Cheese and Wine party, and the Association's annual lunch to be held at the Le Strange Arms hotel in January. Readers interested in learning more about the Gardeners' Association are asked to contact the Membership Secretary, June Hammond tel: 01485 535763.

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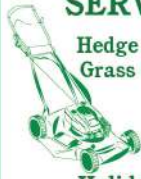
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A Winter's Tale

By Robin Limb, agricultural consultant

The winter of 1962/63 is often quoted as one of the worst on record, with constant snow and sub-zero temperatures, but sugar beet losses due to frost damage were negligible. 250,000 to 350,000 tonnes of beet were not processed due to the inability of growers to harvest once the bad weather arrived. Factories slowed down to try to eke out supplies, but were forced to close by the end of December due to insufficient beet. The higher figure of 350,000 tonnes was quoted by the minister for agriculture in the House of Commons, stating that the 'Corporation' would consider re-opening one factory if sufficient beet supplies of good enough quality could be delivered. In the end this never eventuated.

Almost forty years ago Britain had one of the coldest and snowiest December months of the last century. Severe weather is rarer in December than it is in January and February, but December 1981 was truly exceptional. The night of the 12th-13th was a record-breaker as the mercury plunged below minus 18deg C widely, while a large part of the country was snowbound for more than three weeks.

Most exceptionally cold winters are characterised by long spells of dry and sunny weather punctuated by occasional snowfalls. December 1981 was different, with widespread and heavy snow occurring at regular intervals throughout the month. The second snowstorm on the 11th, hit southern England worst, paralysing roads and railways, leaving 25-30cm of snow in some London suburbs. Just two days later a fierce blizzard swept England, Wales and Northern Ireland, persisting over much of Scotland and northern England on the 14th where the Yorkshire Dales were buried under a metre of snow.

Sugar beet losses in the campaign of 1981/82 were not significant in comparison to following years:

- By the time the cold weather arrived most beet had been delivered or was on farm in store awaiting delivery
- Snow cover was extensive and served to protect both beet in ground and unprotected clamps from the worst of the frost: it was possible to lift beet intact from under a blanket of snow, as shown below
- The campaign was over by the middle of January, meaning that even frost affected beet was processed before it had time to deteriorate significantly

Sugar factories can handle frozen beet, as happens every year in North America, but problems arise when beet thaws out before it can be processed and turns into mush – a bit like your freezer packing up while you are away on holiday.

The winter of 1991/92 mirrored to some extent that of 1981/82, in that cold weather arrived around 10th December. Temperatures as low as minus 12degC were recorded over large parts of East Anglia and The Midlands, with daytime temperatures struggling to

exceed zero, compounded by heavy daytime fog preventing any warming from the sun. At the time a high proportion of beet was either still to be harvested or was sitting in ill-constructed clamps on farm, with little or no provision for frost protection. The pernicious effects of successive overnight lows caused beet clamps to be affected up to a metre deep and beet roots in the ground were frosted to below ground level.



The significant difference between December 1981 and 1991 was the absence of snow cover. The repetitive nature and duration of overnight frosts during mid-December 1991 caused severe damage to both clamped and in-ground beet. Late December saw a return to milder temperatures, causing a general thaw to set in, such that by Boxing Day deteriorated beet was present in loads being delivered to factories. The volume of beet affected soon caused processing problems, and consequently a strict load rejection policy was adopted.

For the remaining two months of the campaign the policy of rejecting loads with more than 2% deteriorated roots led to large volumes of both clamped and freshly-harvested beet being turned away by factories. In total it was estimated that 100,000 tonnes of stored beet and 150,000 tonnes of freshly-harvested or in situ beet were lost. At the time, over 30% of loads were being rejected at Kings Lynn factory. It remains an unhappy memory for me to this day.

The campaign of 2001/02 was preceded by a difficult growing season that included delayed sowing, summer drought and a late maturing crop. Severe frost did not arrive until December 31st, however a high proportion of the crop was still to be processed, much of which was still in the ground. As with 1991, there was little or no snow cover associated with the cold temperatures and most of the crop was affected to a greater or lesser extent by frost.

The difficulties experienced during the 2010/11 campaign were to eclipse those of any previous year in terms of frost impact. The timing and severity of the early winter onset was unprecedented. In November and early-December cold weather from the Arctic established itself over the UK, in the absence of a mild Atlantic airstream. In late-November overnight lows of minus 10-18degC were experienced, and following a brief respite,



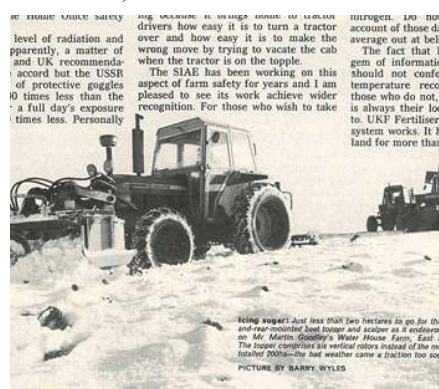
even more extreme frosts occurred in early December.

The lowest single overnight temperature reliably recorded was at Humberside airport on the 10th December of minus 22degC. Elsewhere minus 18degC was typical, although the coldest weather was in parts of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. East Anglia was less cold but still suffered damaging lows, severely impacting beet in the ground.

Factories continued to operate on a combination of stored and freshly-lifted beet until the New Year, when a spell of mild weather ensued. Having exhausted virtually all stored beet, factories were now being supplied almost totally by freshly-harvested crops. But the mild temperatures had resulted in a universal deterioration in beet quality, to such an extent that the overall standard of loads was now so poor that processing became almost impossible.

It is estimated almost 1 million tonnes of beet were lost nationally – four times as much as the previous worst season, 1991. Newark factory had to close its gates in mid-January, with growers losing 25% of their entire crop. My father lost £50,000 as a result. Global warming at its finest?

(Authors Note: Following the 2010/11 campaign, I established a good relationship with former BBC weather forecaster, Jim Bacon, (now retired), who was then working for the UEA-based commercial company Weatherquest (<https://www.weatherquest.co.uk/>) which supplies BBC Look East with its daily forecasts, as well as bespoke services to individual farmers and companies. I also worked with Professor Stephen Dorling at UEA, who explained the complexity of global weather interactions and forecasting probabilities, both of whom I am deeply indebted to.)



Power Farming Magazine February 1982



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From RSPB Titchwell

Carrie Carey

The UK's biodiversity is declining....less places are rich in nature and wildlife is worse off than it has ever been.

According to the 2019 State of Nature report, since the 1970s more of Britain's wildlife has seen a decline than an increase, over a quarter of the UK's wildlife is found in fewer places and 15% of species are threatened with extinction. We lay the blame for this demise at the doorstep of climate change, urbanisation and pollution – all footprints of man's existence. But are we really a nation complacent about the health of our countryside and wildlife or are we more attuned to the conservationists' watchword than we might suppose?

Recent surveys show that the environment is a priority for UK voters and public support for conservation is growing exponentially with its demise. The recent State of Nature report is a collective achievement from more than 70 wildlife organisations and government agencies. Much of the data has been submitted by tens of thousands of volunteers who have tirelessly observed and recorded thousands of species of wildlife. These citizen scientists have monitored birds, bats, mammals, plants and insects across the UK, including over a million spider records! According to the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland "Britain's wildlife is arguably the best monitored in the world" and this is thanks to the diligent supporters of nature who criss cross our shores.

In addition to volunteering, over a third of the UK's adults support a social action on behalf of nature and the environment. These activities vary from recycling, feeding garden birds and using the car less often to buying eco-friendly products, signing a petition or joining a conservation organisation. In fact, public awareness and concern about the decline in our biodiversity has increased significantly in

recent years. Last year over 90% of adults polled expressed concern about damage to the natural environment. More of us champion the use of outdoor areas – our green and blue spaces. With over 170 million visits made to Areas of Natural Outstanding Beauty (such as RSPB Titchwell Marsh and Snettisham reserves) it is apparent that our natural environments are important places to us.

More and more younger people are becoming politically active and are leading the call to action for new laws that protect and restore our wildlife and landscapes. This should sit well with DEFRA's biodiversity strategy for England which is to put people at the heart of biodiversity and ensure more people are engaged in biodiversity issues and taking action.

Despite the stark reality that nature is disappearing at an alarming rate, we are living in an era of possible change. It is a time of hope. Dominic Jerney of the Zoological Society of London reminds us that "The river Thames was declared 'biologically dead' in the 1950s but thanks to dedicated measures to restore habitat and tackle pollution, is now a thriving ecosystem home to more than 100 species of fish including seahorses, eels and sharks; porpoises; and a growing seal population too. It can be done!"

Each year thousands of people join organisations like the RSPB to support the protection and recovery of the wildlife and countryside they love. As we approach Christmas why not consider a gift of RSPB membership for your family, friends or even yourself! Do pop along to Titchwell Marsh reserve where you'll receive a warm welcome and a hot drink as we talk to you about the benefits of membership.

For more information on the State of Nature 2019 report, please go to <https://nbn.org.uk/stateofnature2019/>

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Thaxters plant of the month - Christmas Trees

Wendy Warner

There are many things to consider before buying your Christmas tree. Measure the space where you need it to fit so your tree doesn't end up too tall or wide for your room and have to be cut and made out of proportion. Try to keep it away from heat sources such as radiators and fires and out of direct sunlight but make sure it's in a well lit spot where it will be noticed.

When choosing a real cut tree, one that has been growing in the ground in a field or forest and has been cut with no roots, freshness is the key. Bright, shiny needles that feel waxy rather than dry are a sure sign of freshness. Avoid any trees with browning or withered needles that are starting to drop. Always buy your tree from somewhere where they are stored outside as these have been kept cooler than if they had been in a shop or warehouse. Look for those that are not pre-wrapped as this can cause the tree to sweat and cause inner needles to turn yellow or mouldy.

There are many different types of 'Christmas Tree' including firs, spruce and pines. The most popular one in recent times is the Nordmann Fir which has soft, dark green needles which are the least likely to drop. The branches tend to grow in layers and they are particularly wide at the bottom. The

Fraser Fir has a sweet scent with needles which are deep green on the top and silvery underneath and the tree forms a slender cone with the branches being more upright and structured than the Nordmann. The Norway Spruce is the more traditional Christmas tree with spiky needles (which can be prone to dropping if not treated correctly), they have a strong pine scent, are denser in habit and of a pyramid shape.

Leave your tree in the net if it's going straight into the house as it's much easier to manage it when going through narrow doors or hallways. Once it's in its correct position and placed in a stand or bucket you can then cut the netting but leave it for 24 hours before decorating to allow the branches to settle. If you're not taking it indoors immediately, remove the net, store it in a shady position outside and make sure you put it in a bucket of water. To help your cut tree last longer, use a stand with a water reservoir. If you have a blocked tree, this can be placed in a large bucket or tub of water as it will still take up water through the block. Cut trees can drink up to 4 litres of water a day, so keep it topped up.

Pot-grown or containerised trees are an alternative if you want a smaller tree and may



be put in the garden for future use, but keep them well watered, avoiding heat and keeping them inside for as little time as possible. Pot-grown trees will have been grown in their pots so their roots should be intact and therefore most likely to survive planting out after Christmas. Containerised (or potted) trees will have been field-grown but then lifted and put into pots – with these, there is the risk that main roots may have been severed in lifting which can reduce the success of replanting.

Whatever type of tree you choose, enjoy it, this Christmas!

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Community Orchard news

Kate Dunbar

In the centre of town, Hunstanton Community Orchard continues to thrive and grow. Some of the trees are beginning to produce a decent crop of fruit, and it is becoming a haven for local wildlife. We took the decision to let the grass and wildflowers grow, with paths mown through as seen in many places throughout the country, including Kew gardens. It's so beneficial for wild creatures such as insects and birds; and humans too! Many people have told us how much they like the long grass, and both Anglia and Britain In Bloom Judges really approved of this eco-friendly management approach. Best of all though, the local kids enjoy the space and love to play there with their friends. It's also become a favourite peaceful picnic spot for people which is just what we hoped for. Adrian Winnington continues to monitor the site for wildflowers, butterflies and any other interesting inhabitants.

The Lincolnshire co-op again made us their Community Champions through their Environment quarter, and their members raised for us a wonderful £236.16. How very generous! It may not sound terribly glamorous, but we shall use the money for a litter bin with a recycling element to it. This is something we have been talking about needing for a while, so we are very grateful indeed to the Lincolnshire Co-op.

Whilst the orchard has grown however, our committee unfortunately has dwindled. This is due to various reasons, not least because much valued members have moved away from the town.

So sadly, we have decided not to hold Blossom Day next year, but instead tie in with 'Have a Field Day' run by Hunstanton Town Council during the summer. Hopefully the weather will be a little warmer by then too.

We have a few maintenance tasks to do late winter, such as hedge trimming and tree pruning, so if you fancy giving us a hand that would be brilliant. And if you would like to join our committee (very informal!) and help steer the orchard's development, you would be most welcome.

Please contact Kate Dunbar kate-dunbar@hotmail.com



Here we hoe again with Old Muck from Northfields Allotments

Yo hoe hoe...

After a good old look at how the land lies plot-wise, we'll soon be in a position to welcome new members.

This stems partly from some of our gardeners taking on smaller, more manageable plots and other boundary tweaks on our site, following feedback from our members.

So what does having an allotment entail? Fresh fruit and veg of all kinds, ranging from kitchen staples to more exotic varieties which are expensive or hard to source in the shops.

You could be self-sufficient in garlic and grow a dizzying range. Or a surprisingly small space can yield a freezer full of sweetcorn or beans. Some grow tomatoes until they're coming out of their ears, courgettes by the barrow-load, or chilli peppers which make your eyes water just to look at them.

Then there are those who cosset their fruit trees, canes or strawberry patch for to-die-for jams that taste like summer on toast.

It's up to you, as long as you keep your plot tended and those dreaded weeds under

control. There's a downside to this, in the shape of a four-letter word called work.

How long does it take is as long as the proverbial piece of string, but the more time you can devote to it, particularly in the first couple of years will pay dividends.

Some get by on a day a week over the

cooler months, with shorter, more frequent visits when it's warmer and the crops need TLC to swell the harvest.

Greenhouses and or polytunnels need daily (preferable twice-daily) visits at the height of summer to keep tomatoes in tip-top condition.

Your new plot may well need a concerted effort to weed and prepare over the winter, depending on the state it was left in by its previous incumbent.

Taking one on is a commitment some find an enjoyable challenge, while others find too daunting to continue when the Good Life becomes a chore.

Plots cost from £35 per year for what we call a full half, smaller sizes are pro-rata. Rent includes water, unlike many sites. So what next, if you're thinking of joining us?

Contact our plot manager Derek, on 07721 778727 or our secretary at linda.baker1@gmail.com. They can fill you in on what's available and arrange to show you round the site. Please note you must be a resident of 'New Hunstanton' to be eligible.



Mudpies and Butterflies

with Louise Barby
Nature & Nurture

December is a super busy time for many of us, but give yourself a little time on a crisp morning to tend a few areas of the garden, making the best of fresh air and enjoy the bird song while you work.

If you have concentrated on summer colour in the garden, focus now on evergreen structure. Skimmia Japonica is particularly good at providing colour, try Rubella for pretty pink flowers or Nymans for bright red berries.

Cornus (dogwood) is fabulous at the back of a border at this time of year, with its colourful stems of reds, yellows or oranges.

Cyclamen Hellebore are great for a flush of colour within a perennials border.

Clematis are often forgotten at this time of year. There are a number of Cirrhosa that flower from November until March. There is even one called 'Jingle Bells'.

Perfect for filling the gap between late perennials and Spring bulbs.

Baskets and pots can provide a very welcome splash of colour if you have a small balcony or patio. Try a simple basket of variegated, trailing ivy which are extremely hardy, or winter pansies mixed with some small foliage plants. Don't forget to pop in some early spring bulbs too. If you can spare five minutes, try to fit in a few jobs:

Trim roses by up to half.

Spike the lawn to improve drainage

Remove any yellowing leaves from shrubs and perennials

Sweep up and clear leaves, bagging up if possible to store as leaf mould for future use.

Harvest Holly with berries for a vase or to make a wreath.

Check climbers and tie in if necessary

If you still haven't planted Tulip bulbs, there is still time, unless the ground is frozen.

Vegetables

If you have a raised bed or border for fruit and vegetables, why not sow some green manure. This keeps weeds down and effectively enriches the soil for future crops once dug in.

December Project - DIY Leaf mould

Rake your leaves in to a pile, leave some in an area for hedgehogs and other bugs to over winter. Construct a basic leaf basket to create your own leaf mulch.



Use 4 x 4ft tree stakes. Create a square, placing them 60cm apart, leave 90cm of the stake above ground.

Unroll chicken wire at attach to the first stake with staples or tacks. Pull tightly and repeat on all sides. Clip off the excess and bend any sharp edges in on themselves.

Simple leave to rot down as use as a soil conditioner this time next year.

All that is left for me to do, is wish you a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year!

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Hedgehogs

Terry Parish



Winter is coming and, in the old days, hedgehogs would be tucked up asleep. The seasons are currently confusing to wild life and there are often young hedgehogs about late in the year. At the time of writing, middle of November, I have had one emerging from under the hedge in early afternoon. It has been rooting about for insects and I have fed it dry food and a paste. Worms dropped by it were ignored.

Moulam and Horn usually has suitable food otherwise use tinned cat food but never milk. Provide water and check it is not frozen.

Hedgehogs under about a pound in weight will be unlikely to survive hibernation and need taking to East Winch Wildlife Hospital Gayton Road PE32 1LG.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) has plenty of information on-line to help you care for hedgehogs and there is also a shop with hedgehog related gifts and care items.

Don't forget to make gaps under fences to allow hedgehogs to have a highway.

Happy Hogmanay

Firework Fun at Hunstanton Library

Sheila Farley

During a rather wet day, much fun was had at Hunstanton Library by those who came to hear the story of Guy Fawkes and craft some indoor friendly fireworks in preparation to celebrate Bonfire Night.



Joe McLauchlan, library assistant said, 'We take great pride in being able to offer a wide range of events to our customers and really want to encourage local children to love their library. The team at Hunstanton Library work together to provide fun and educational events that inspire the children's imaginations and strengthen the lifelong love of reading.'



The little girl is Cherry Davies (5) with her dad Richard Davies

Hunstanton Library always has a host of events on every month and are currently preparing for December's Christmas Special Events :

Mrs Claus' Festive Fun on Sunday 1st December at 1:30pm – Christmas stories and lantern crafting and festive photo booth. Add some sparkle with a glitter tattoo for a small charge.

Festive Frolic hosted by Hunstanton Library Friends on Friday 13th December 2-4pm – Christmas refreshments, crafts and quizzes! Don your best festive jumper to donate to Save the Children.

Pinecone Crafts on Tuesday 17th December at 4pm – craft a Rudolph, Snowman, Christmas fairy or Christmas Tree pinecone decoration. £3 per child, 2 pinecones each.

Other events can be found on www.norfolk.gov.uk under the Libraries-What's On section, by calling 01485 532280 or popping in to the library to collect an events list.

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Land Rover devotees join Fire Fighters in rally raising thousands for charity

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service held their third annual Charity Land Rover Run on Sunday 17th November 2019 in aid of the Firefighters Charity.

Around two hundred Land Rovers of all shapes and sizes gathered at Pensthorpe Natural Park and travelled across rural Norfolk stopping off at The Muckleburgh Collection where tea and cake was had by all. Fifty of the vehicles took to the off-road course at Muckleburgh following the tracks used for the tank experience; the route took them over undulating terrain and past a gunning post looking out across the beach and the sea. A unique and amazing opportunity all made possible by the generosity of the collection owner Sir Michael Savory.

The impressive collection of Land Rovers then made their way across to Creak Abbey, stopping for lunch and an opportunity for a short walk to the Abbey ruins.

The route then entered the Holkham Hall parkland through the Golden Gate and with the permission of The Earl of Leicester, travelled around the Holkham Estate finishing with a finale in front of Holkham Hall with the fountains giving a magnificent backdrop.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service's Lynn Twite said: "When you think about raising money for charity you try and think of doing something different to capture a group of people who might like a day out, and this event raised over £4,000 for the charity which supports Firefighters both serving and retired, and their families.

"The plan is to do it all again in November next year!"

A spokesperson for The Fire Fighters Charity said: "We offer specialist lifelong support for members of the UK's fire services community, empowering individuals to achieve mental, physical and social wellbeing throughout their lives.

"Whatever their reason for coming to us – whether they are injured, recovering from an illness, suffering from stress or anxiety – we take the time to understand each person's mental, physical and social needs.

"The aim, however, is always the same; to help people move forward positively in their lives.

"To ensure we can do this for over 5,000 people a year and to meet the £8.5m cost of operating our support services, we are dependent on regular donations from fire and rescue service personnel, past and present."

Sarah Kent, who completed the run with husband Rigil said: "It was another amazing day out, seeing beautiful Norfolk and raising funds for the Firefighters Charity."

Editor's note: More pictures taken by Ian Burt at this event can be viewed on our website www.townandaround.net



Rigil Kent with his wife Sarah and their children Charlie (12), Darcey (10) and Noah (8)



Dictionary delight for Heacham students

Sophie Hooker

After months of fundraising, the Rotary Club of Hunstanton and District have started their 'Dictionary 4 Life Project' – handing out free dictionaries for local schoolchildren.

Year 5 students from Heacham Junior School were presented their dictionaries by Hunstanton Rotary Club president John Crofts and fellow member Peter Gohegan of Mr Bun the Baker.

Rotary have raised funds throughout the year from events such as Norton Hill Light Railway weekend and the Hunstanton Kite and Classic Car festival.

It is part of the national Rotary Club 'Dictionary 4 Life Project' where Rotary strives to encourage the intelligent and self-guided use of dictionaries for primary school children all around the country.

Hunstanton Rotary Club President John Crofts said: "We're delighted annually to come and present dictionaries to the primary schools in the area. These are provided by Usborne books to reduce cost to us and then our fundraising during the year goes towards paying for the remainder of the costs.

"We're very fortunate on this occasion to have three sponsors: Mr Bun the Baker, Georgie's Café and Hughes electrical, all located on the high street in Hunstanton.

"It's a great pleasure and it shows our commitment to the schools in the area and to making sure literacy is encouraged in all of these schools."

The club have already presented dictionaries to schoolchildren in



Rotarians John Crofts (L) and Peter Gohegan (R) with a group of Heacham pupils

Ingoldisthorpe, Snettisham, Sedgeford and Docking and are looking forward to visiting Dersingham, Brancaster and Hunstanton schools in the next few weeks.

Smithdon celebrates student success

Smithdon High School welcomed back the Class of 2019, their parents and members of Hunstanton community groups for a celebratory Awards Evening on Wednesday 13th November.

The evening was a chance to present the former Year 11 students with their official GCSE certificates, as well as recognising the incredible achievements made by a number of the year group. These achievements were acknowledged through the presentation of awards and trophies by the school's Chair of Governors, Andrew Gee, who also spoke at the evening about the importance of the school's values - Strength, Integrity, Excellence - throughout our lives in personal endeavours and in business.

GCSE Subject Prizes were awarded to:

Harry Caldicott: Geography
 Chloe Munro: Design and Technology
 Taylor Smith: The Clare Shield for English Language; Chemistry
 Lucy Henry: The Connie Martin Memorial Prize for English Literature; French
 Matilda Riches: The Halls Exhibition Foundation Endowed Prize for Mathematics;
 Food Preparation and Nutrition
 Ryan Daniels: Biology
 Aelfthryth Steward: History; Religious Education
 Matthew Yarrow: Combined Science
 Georgia Dicks: Physics
 Chelsea Britton: Certificate in Digital Applications
 Ben Richards: Hunstanton Round Table

Award for Physical Education (GCSE)

Oliver Pyatt: Health and Social Care

Milly Chalmers: The Clare Shield for Art

Samuel Hudson: Drama

Jamie Chillingworth: Music

Overall GCSE Attainment: Samuel Hudson and Taylor Smith

Overall GCSE Progress: Jacob Scarisbrick and Lucy Henry

Special Awards

The Rotary Young Citizen Award: Alex Daniels

The George Raines Memorial Award for Sporting Endeavour: Rosie Booth

The Richard Shaw Award: Finnley Bennett

The Hunstanton Lions Prize for Service to the School and its Community: Rose Edmonds

The Pastoral Leader Award: Jacob Scarisbrick



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The Rotary Club of Hunstanton & District

John Crofts, President

As we approach Christmas it is normal to think of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Along with other Rotarians I recently attended our Rotary District 1080 Conference held at Potter's Leisure Resort near great Yarmouth. Normally such events don't appeal to me, but I was very pleasantly surprised on this occasion.

Amongst other things the day consisted of a number of charitable organisations presenting information about why we might like to support them – I wanted to fundraise for all of them! Some of them work principally overseas and others are more local. Here are just a few examples:

Mercy Ships

Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.



Conditions requiring surgical treatment kill more people in than HIV/Aids, TB and malaria combined. Globally, five billion people have no access to safe, affordable surgery when they need it.

In sub-Saharan Africa, up to 69% of people live on less than £2 a day. Healthcare in these countries either doesn't exist or is unaffordable to the vast majority of the population.

As well as completing thousands of urgent operations onboard its floating hospital, the Africa Mercy, Mercy Ships volunteers also work closely with host nations to improve the way healthcare is delivered across the country, by local medical staff, and clinics.

In this way, Mercy Ships doesn't just address the immediate need on the ground, but also works to strengthen the country's healthcare systems and drive policy change. The aim is to tackle the root causes of the problems rather than just the consequences. For more information : <https://www.mercyships.org.uk>

Street Child

From rural areas that have never had a school, to classrooms that have been destroyed because of disaster or conflict, millions of children are unable to go to school across the world today simply because there are no schools for them to go to.

For children who are in school, many schools are not good enough quality with hundreds of students per classroom, a lack of toilets, sanitary facilities, capable teachers or adequate learning materials.

Parental and community attitudes can often also hold back children's education, especially for girls from late primary-school age and upwards, stopping them from going to school or making them earn a living for the family instead of getting an education.



So Street Child works with communities to build schools, train teachers, promote the importance of education and ensure that all solutions are sustainable long-term. They have trained and supported over 400 teachers to complete government-recognised training courses. Over 500 teachers have benefited from major in-service training and continuous professional development programmes - and many more from shorter, more specialised interventions on topics such as 'disaster risk resilience' and 'education in emergencies'. Since 2013, they have provided over 100 school management committees with agricultural grants and technical support to develop rice farms and seed lending schemes where the projects made following harvest help to meet educational costs. Street Child supports schools to find ways of paying teachers and affording the costs of education by helping communities grow their income. For more information : <https://www.street-child.co.uk/>

East Anglian Air Ambulance

I think we all have an idea of the incredible life-saving work undertaken by the East Anglian Air Ambulance service, offering a combination of a quick response time, advanced critical care on scene and quick transfer to the appropriate hospital. However they also minimise the impact of trauma in the community by providing vital first aid training, so more people can take action if someone nearby suffers a medical emergency.

In particular, and you may have seen television adverts about this, they appealed to us to help extend their work to become a 24/7 service. The time of day or night should not determine what level of emergency critical care you receive in a life-threatening situation. Their vision is to become a life-saving service



that is operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week by 2020. To operate a 24/7 service across East Anglia they need to raise an additional £1 million each year, on top of the £12 million we already need to raise. With your support, they estimate that they could attend up to 600 additional missions and be there for over 400 more patients who need our help every year – that could include you and your family.

For more information : <https://www.eaaa.org.uk>

Medical Detection Dogs

We are all aware of the wonderful work Guide Dogs do to help those who are blind or partially-sighted, but you may, like me, be unaware of Medical Detection Dogs using the amazing power of the dog's nose to detect human diseases. Research is based on the dog's ability to detect minute odour traces created by diseases. Because dogs are able to detect tiny odour concentrations, around one part per trillion (the equivalent of one teaspoon of sugar in two Olympic sized swimming pools), they are potentially able to detect diseases, such as cancer, much earlier than is currently possible. This pioneering work could help to speed up the diagnosis process and impact on thousands of lives.



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Other endocrine disorders
Episodes of sudden health deterioration

By assisting individuals with their condition, our dogs help reduce 999 calls and hospital admissions, giving people and their families/carers greater confidence and independence, enabling them to lead a full and happy life.

For more information :
<https://www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk>

Much of this was new to me but I have over my time been aware of the amazing work led

by Rotary over the past 30 years to eradicate Polio from the world. Recently on World Polio Day, Rotary and its Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners announced that wild poliovirus type 3 (WPV3) has been eradicated worldwide. WPV3 is only the third infectious human disease-causing pathogen to be eradicated in history, following smallpox and wild poliovirus type 2. This achievement means that two of the three wild polio strains have now been wiped out, an important marker of progress against the disease. The announcement comes on the heels of recent news that Nigeria has gone three years without a case of wild poliovirus, which means that the entire African region could be

certified wild poliovirus-free in sometime in 2020. From 122 countries we are now down to polio being present in just two countries - Pakistan and Afghanistan, we continue to make historic progress that shows us that eradication is possible.

Come and meet us

Rotary is about so much more than good causes, but it does allow us to work with over a million people around the world to spread goodwill and we would be delighted to meet you and explain how you could enjoy the fellowship and work of our Rotary Club. Just email me : johnpcrofts@gmail.com or phone 01485 525142

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News from Hunstanton Lifeboat Station

Geoff Needham, LPO Hunstanton RNLI

Sunday 10th November, the crew joined in the Remembrance parade. The weather was sunny and stayed fine for a very large gathering of different organisations from around the area, including a strong representation of USA servicemen, as well as RAF from Marham. The parade started from the United Services Club to the War Memorial, and the laying of the wreaths. Brian Penty was our Standard bearer. Michael Darby laid the wreath on behalf of the Hunstanton RNLI. The roll of Honour was read listing the names of both Conflicts. It was nice to see such a large number of the younger generation, from their various organisations.

With no shouts to report, it's been quiet on that front, but behind the scenes a lot has been going on. We have enrolled a number of new recruits, both in crew and management rolls, and I'm pleased to say they are progressing very well, the training goes on.

Notes from History

November 14th 1871. Hunstanton lifeboat Licensed Victualler was launched to a French Lugger aground in Brancaster bay. The wind was strong E N E and not being able to find the vessel, the crew returned to Hunstanton. The lifeboat was called out again next day, a full gale was blowing from the North East, to an unknown vessel reported to be on the Burnham Flats, again nothing was found. And they returned to station.

It was almost two years before they were next called, 21st Oct. 1874. The Colchester reg. Brigantine Le Liberal, aground on the Woolpack sands in a North Westerly gale, after a struggle the Hunstanton men rescued the crew of five.

Nov. 22nd 1874 a Russian Barque, the Caseo of Bargo, which had run aground on the South sand in a strong North East wind and heavy sea. On arrival the Capt. of the Caseo requested the crew of the lifeboat aboard and with their local knowledge and assistance managed to get the vessel off the sands and managed to get the vessel to port. For this service the crew were credited with saving the vessel and 15 man crew. The lifeboat launched three days later on an all night service in heavy seas and a North East gale. Distress rockets, fired from the lightship had been seen by the coastguard, it was later confirmed by the lightship that the vessel had got off the sands and proceeded on passage, the lifeboat returned to station.

20th Nov. 1884 the three-masted Barque The Alabama of Helsingborg had left Denmark bound for Hull, the wind blew up from the north-north-east, the weather had been thick fog all week, catching glimpse of lights at about 9 p.m. the captain thought he was off the Humber, he realised to late his mistake and ran aground on the Sunk sands off Hunstanton, the vessel smashed her rudder as she grounded, and then drifted inshore until she grounded half a mile off the coastguard station, the impact bringing down the main and mizzen masts, the duty coastguard called the lifeboat, which managed to launch at 10.30pm after a long hard pull



they managed to reach the vessel at midnight, they had an extreme task of getting alongside due to the masts and rigging hanging over the side of the Alabama, eventually they managed to get all twelve crewmen off and landed them at Hunstanton. It was stated in the paper that many people walked out to the wreck at low water.

Respect the water

Respect the water campaign and advice to Holiday makers: Tidal waters have strong tidal currents, especially the approaches to the harbours. Check the Weather and tide times. Read signs. Be aware of local hazards, ie; sandbanks. Channels have strong tidal currents. Carry means of calling for help. If you see someone in danger dial 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard who will page us.

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The Duck Inn named one of the best gastropubs in the UK

Stanhoe's award-winning gastropub, famous for their Sunday lunches, has secured yet another accolade under their belt.

International lifestyle website Big Seven Travel, who provides current and curated tourist recommendations around the world, has placed The Duck Inn 19th in their list of the 50 best gastropubs in the UK.

Big Seven Travel write:

"The Duck Inn manages to elevate a meal that is so common and standard around the country to something that is other worldly. It will have your taste buds thanking you for having walked into their pub.

"The menu changes on a regular basis, but you'll nearly always see beef, pork and some form of exciting fish alternative. Try to local pan-roasted lamb or Norfolk ox liver with truffle noisette for a real treat."

The Duck Inn was named Runner Up in the 2019 OFM Awards for Best Sunday Lunch and were finalists in the 2018 GQ Food and Drink Awards for Best Pub.

The Duck Inn is a 18th century building at located at the edge of the small village of Stanhoe and has been run by husband and wife Ben and Sarah Handley since 2013.



Round the bend with Dean Baker

Reindeer Food or Forty Years On

Say it softly, whisper, if you will. It's almost here...

As I write, I wonder how many more times we will put food out for the reindeers, how many more times I will place the fairy on top of the tree to hear a little voice whisper "It's beautiful."

Time, it seems, is more marked at Christmas.

But, it's also a time, when, if you're not organised the abiding memory is of disgruntled relatives and late night car journeys to buy a pint of emergency milk.

I ask the current Mrs B how she copes with Christmas visitors:

"That's easy" she smiles her sweetest smile "I pretend they're dead! If you shut your eyes and imagine it's 40 years on and they've all gone! Then you open your eyes and they're still here, the colours are bright and everyone is young."

I'm impressed until she grabs my arm in a vice like grip, her face close to mine and growls: "Act happy and you'll get happy - and if all else fails, drink sherry!"

Now that Mrs B has sorted the social side of the festive season, let's get back to the pith of this article.

Here, is a handy guide on how to avoid plumbing and heating emergencies. There will always be unfortunate boiler breakdowns, but on the whole you can prepare for some of the common issues such as blocked sinks and toilets

Tip 1

Don't pour hot fat down your kitchen sink. It could block it up.

Wait for the fat to cool and solidify, then scrape it into a newspaper and throw it into the rubbish bin.

Tip 2

Only the 3 P's are to go down the toilet. The first P being paper. Wipes, even if they claim to be flushable, make up 93% of material blocking sewers. If you have lots of guests this Christmas the last thing you need is an overflowing toilet.

Tip 3

Regular maintenance of your heating system is key. You've still got time to squeeze in a boiler service. Annual servicing keeps appliances working effectively and efficiently. It also makes a costly breakdown less likely.

The Bakers, including Mrs B, are looking forward to Lizzie and Phil's annual visit. Lizzie loves the Christmas shops and visiting the beautiful Norfolk churches and I suspect, Phil likes the break from the routine, that only comes with a visit to someone else's home.

Tip 4

Above all 'time and tide wait for no man', so just enjoy it.

All the very best

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Spittance image?

By Miranda Marshall, Director, Hayes + Storr

There is a long held stereotype of judges being old-fashioned. Judge James Pickles became a household name in the 1960s when he asked 'Who are The Beatles?' The reality is that the Law Courts are open to scientific developments to help them achieve justice.

The Courts have always had to address the question of parentage. It was the stuff of tabloid newspapers in days past. Today, as DNA testing becomes more accessible, the Courts now have to consider how to balance the benefits of DNA testing against the rights of the individual.

Jordan Rogers, a care worker, inherited a large country estate, after proving through DNA testing that he was the son of an aristocrat. That 'rags to riches' tale came two years after the exhuming of the body of the Spanish artist Salvador Dali for paternity testing.

The two most frequent uses are to prove or, conversely, to disprove, that someone is biologically related to a person who has died; usually, but not always, because there is an inheritance at stake.

Arguments have been put to the Court, by someone refusing to submit to DNA testing, that it is interference with their human rights. In response the Judge held that the interference was a proportionate means of protecting the public interest in the accurate resolution of inheritance disputes.

Another case revolved on whether DNA evidence extracted from the deceased for medical purposes could be released to determine parentage. There, not to do so would have led to injustice, and so, the Judge gave permission for the DNA testing.

Where there are sound medical reasons, such as the treatment or prevention of inherited disorders or diseases, for the testing of paternity, and a medical sample is readily available following death, the Court can also order testing.

It has also been held that there is no infringement of a third party's human rights by DNA testing, even if they find out that they have an additional grandchild. The appellant's rights must be weighed against the respondent's rights. Here, there is a slant in favour of the respondent, so as to err on the side of preserving the status quo. The Court is able to order directions where there is reluctance to cooperate.

In cases where there is doubt as to parentage, the only way that an executor of an estate can be certain that they are distributing the estate of a deceased person accurately, is to ascertain all the beneficiaries.

The improved ability to determine parentage through genetic testing is

impacting on the law. A paternity test is generally cheap and painless and can be done using a hair or saliva sample; no blood or needles required! It is much cheaper than the production of witness statements and other evidence. Its great advantage is that it is both definitive and can help parties reach a settlement at an early stage.

This article aims to supply general information, but it is not intended to constitute advice. Every effort is made to ensure that the law referred to is correct at the date of publication and to avoid any statement which may mislead. However no duty of care is assumed to any person and no liability is accepted for any omission or inaccuracy. Always seek our specific advice.



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Heacham and Hunstanton at Night

Terry Parish

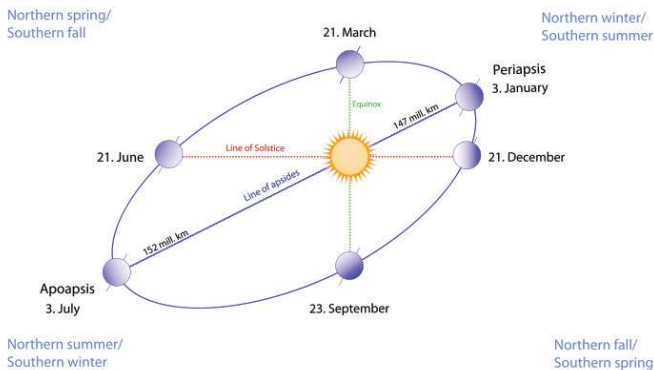
I saw the transit of Mercury last month. Many thanks to the three people who joined me in my garden, one from South Wales which seemed extreme; and the two who turned up in the freezing wind on Hunstanton cliffs. Two walkers had a look through the 'scope too.



Transit of Mercury 2019 Heacham Parish

It was the time of inclement weather with floods in Doncaster and many other places and it rained in Heacham until just before the transit started. Passing clouds meant it was seen as snapshots rather than as a continuous event. 2032 before it happens again. I hope you are younger than me.

Anyway, December and January 2020. December 22nd is the winter solstice, shortest day, longest night and first day of winter. 5th January, 7.48am, the Earth is as close as it gets to the Sun (147million km) so turn the heating down.

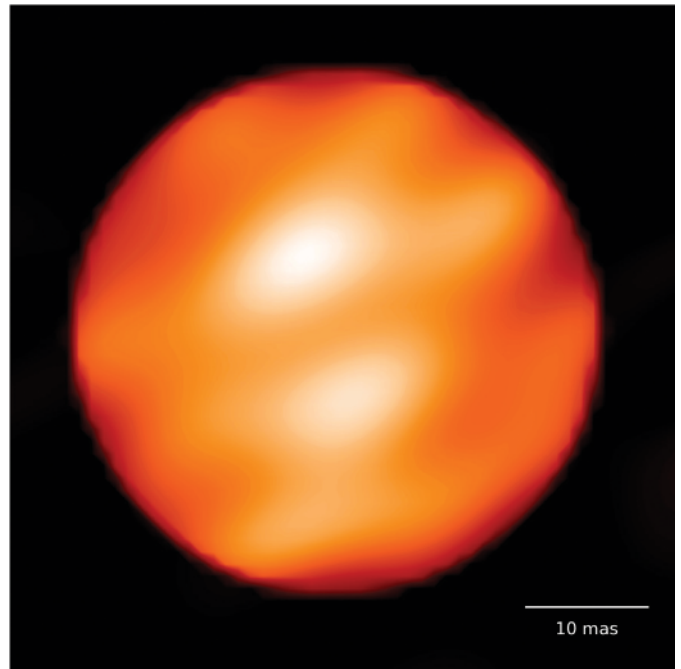


The seasons. Internet. Ellipse exaggerated, orbit almost a circle.

Just a few baubles prior to Christmas: Orion is well up in the winter sky; find Betelgeuse at his top left shoulder and wonder if it will suddenly become as bright as the Full Moon. If it does you will have witnessed a close supernova. 'Beetlejuice' is an old, red, supergiant and has expanded to a size which would engulf our Solar System out to Jupiter. It is one of the largest stars visible to your eyes.

Betelgeuse's nuclear reactions are in their final stages and cause its brightness to fluctuate significantly. The explosion will come soon which means anytime in the next million years. Perhaps it will be the 'Star of Wonder' this year. In which case, it will have exploded 640 years ago.

A 'star' which will guide you into the west, as it does every year, is the planet Venus. It starts low down in the SW but rises as the month progresses, setting about 6pm at the beginning and 7pm at the end. It will be very bright, so bright that its phase is hard to discern. Look at



Betelgeuse imaged by NASA

it just as it becomes visible in the darkening sky or through thin cloud or a filter that reduces glare. Venus shows the same phases as the Moon as it journeys around the Sun – except for Full which is impossible (think about it). At the beginning of the month it will show a fat gibbous phase which will gradually reduce until, at the end of January it is at about half phase. Its brightness will not change significantly as, as the reflective area decreases, Venus moves, in its orbit, closer to us.



A gibbous Venus. Heacham Christmas 2013 Parish

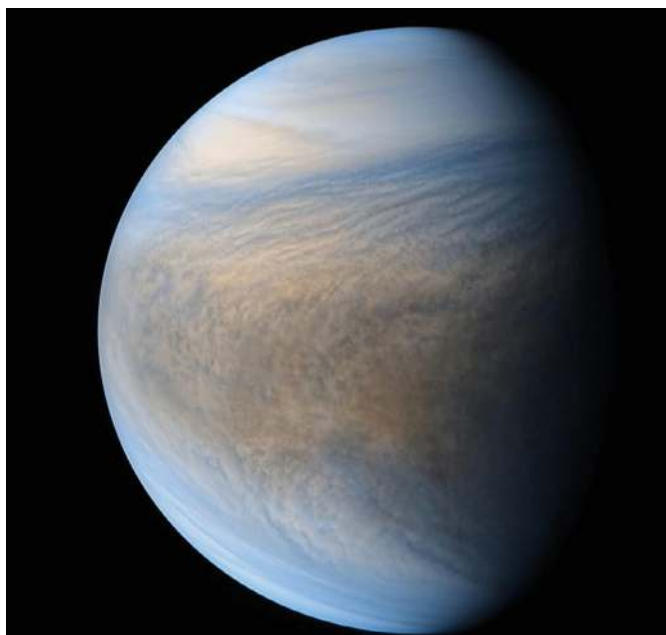
It may look very beautiful but Venus is deceptive. It reflects sunlight well off clouds of sulphuric acid vapour floating on an atmosphere of carbon dioxide. The temperature at the surface is 460°C and its atmospheric pressure is 90 times that of Earth's - equivalent to about a mile beneath the sea.

Tens of thousands of active volcanoes keep the atmosphere thick and the surface churns over millennia. There are many impact craters but no small ones. Not quite the world of C.S. Lewis, Perelandra 1943, or even that depicted in my Boy's Book of Space (Patrick Moore 1957,

a Christmas present) where a black and white artist's impression showed a wet jungle.

The only craft to land on Venus are the Soviet (younger readers think Russian and Google USSR) Venera probes. There were 13 of these between 1961 and 1984. Ten landed and lasted between 23 minutes and 2 hours. They included the first space vehicle to land on a planet and the first to send images back.

The Americans have had several flybys of Venus by craft going elsewhere. The Japanese sent a couple of craft out there some years ago and one, Akatsuki, is in orbit now and sending back images and data. Russia and America are in talks about a collaborative mission (Venera D) in the 2020's but I don't know if anyone has told Trump. The Indian Space Research Organisation has designs on the planet of love too.



Gibbous Venus from Japanese orbiter Akatsuki

Venus highlights. These occur low in the sky so you need a good horizon. At the start of the month Jupiter is very low and below right of Venus; 4pm is the time to try and see both. Saturn is to the upper left of Venus but much fainter than faint Jupiter; try from about 4.30pm. On the 10th / 11th Saturn is in conjunction with Venus (very close). Jupiter will vanish by the middle of the month, Saturn by the end. You will be looking across the Solar System, beyond the Sun, to see these distant gas giants whilst Venus is to the right of the Sun as seen from Earth.

On the 28th / 29th December, Venus is now higher in the sky and close to the Crescent Moon. Look SSW about 5pm.



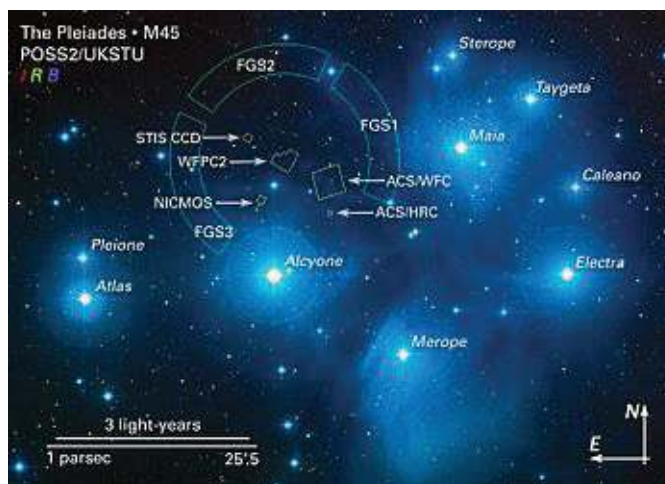
Venus and Moon off North Beach Heacham Christmas 2013. The sea was just at the top of the flood defences. Parish

Meteors may add sparkle to nightly festivities. The Geminids are around between 4th and 16th Dec, peaking on the 14th. They appear before midnight and are slower moving than most showers as they consist of particles of more substantial material from the asteroid Phaethon, rather than, typically, less dense cometary matter. Asteroids and comets are no longer as distinct as they used to be; some asteroids have been seen to grow faint tails as they orbit close to the Sun.

On the 23rd, the debris of comet 8P/Tuttle hits the upper atmosphere providing the Ursids meteor shower.

January; named after the Roman god Janus, God of beginnings and doorways. He is depicted as looking two ways, to the future and to the past. Janus is an inner moon of Saturn and 'helps' shepherd the ring system. It shares its orbit with a similar body named Epimetheus, sometimes just 31 miles closer to Saturn, and every four years the two moons trade places. An essential fact for a Christmas quiz or cracker.

In brief: 3rd/4th January. The Quadrantid meteor shower peaks after midnight. 7th January, the Moon is close to the Hyades star cluster and above the orange star Aldebaran. Look through binoculars to see the cluster in sparkling detail and move well above it to look at the Pleiades, the magnificent 'Seven Sisters' which are a blur to many eyes but distinct stars to others.

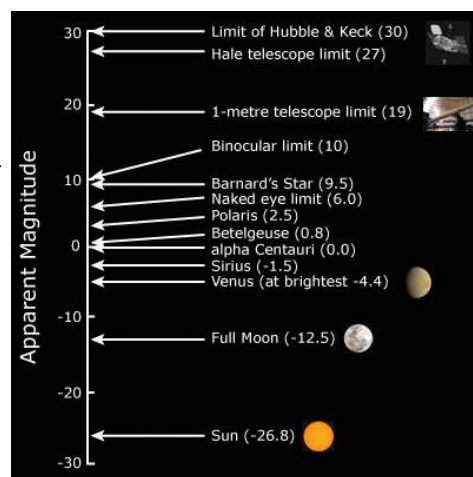


The Pleiades. Internet

Constellation of the month, Orion. Look at Betelgeuse, blue white Rigel and the nebulae that help form his sword as does the multiple star system of Nair al Saif.

And remember Venus which shines at a magnitude of -4 and doesn't set until 8.30pm at the end of the month. Magnitude is a logarithmic scale with negative numbers brighter than positive ones. Magnitude 1 stars are the brightest in the sky, like Sirius. The very dimmest stars visible to good eyes are

Magnitude 6. Each decrease in magnitude shows an increase in brightness of 2.5. Note, magnitude is a measure of brightness as seen from Earth. Stars are at different distances from us so a very faint star might be actually brighter than one close to.



Internet

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

When will grandparents be recognised?

Daniel Sims, Solicitor, Family Department

With Christmas around the corner, many families will be making preparations to spend time together over the festive period. However, in cases where parents have separated or divorced, this is not always so straight forward. While both parents automatically retain the right to see their children after a relationship breaks down, grandparents do not and this can sometimes make it difficult for them to see their grandchildren.

It can be heart-breaking to be denied the opportunity to spend time with your grandchildren, but a recent study has shown that this situation is not uncommon. In some areas, as many as one third of grandparents have been restricted from seeing their grandchildren and many believed that parental divorce or separation had played a role in this.

If after a relationship or marriage comes to an end, the separated parents cannot agree on the living and contact arrangements for their children, either one can make an application to the Court for an Order setting out the arrangements. The law specifically includes a presumption that it is in the best interests of the child to have both parents involved in their upbringing.

However, there is no such presumption in favour of grandparents spending meaningful time with their grandchildren. Whilst grandparents can initiate legal proceedings, the Court must give them permission to start a case, and will have to consider the connection that they have and any risk that the case could cause harm and disruption to the child.

The Courts do recognise the importance of a relationship between the grandparent and grandchild and when an application for contact is made by a grandparent it is often granted unless there is a good reason why it should not be. However, the reality is that grandparents face additional hurdles when fighting for contact.

Last year, it seemed as though some of these hurdles were going to be removed. In the summer of 2018, some MPs called for a change to the Children Act to ensure that relationships between grandparents and grandchildren were maintained in the event of parental separation. The House of Commons suggested amending the law to extend the



presumption of involvement to include grandparents, and to remove the requirement to apply for permission.

Unfortunately these proposals did not get off the ground, and at the current time, the legal position for grandparents remains unchanged. Calls for legal reform continue, and it is hoped that this will be addressed in the future, so that the law will come to formally recognise the role that grandparents play in their grandchildren's lives.

The family solicitors at Fraser Dawbarns LLP are always happy to offer advice and have experience assisting grandparents who are making an application to the Court for access to grandchildren as well as helping with a range of family disputes. We offer a range of pricing options and levels of involvement, so we are able to tailor our service to best fit your needs.



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Norfolk Holiday Homes

Christmas will soon be here! With family and friends all getting together for that once a year celebration is for some a tedious thought and others a time for joyful organisation. Both for the same reason perhaps – people coming round and you have little or no space but you don't want to say no as they are family. Let's face it, we are always (usually...) pleased to see them, but pleased to see them go so things go back to normal...and they most likely will feel the same. But, you can compromise by having the best of both worlds and so can they.

Overflow family and friends can stay in their own accommodation at this special time of year. So, rent a holiday home for a few days. You may even find one close to you. Or you may not want them that close. Get them to pay half or treat them as their family Christmas present. After all you don't see them that much, do you? You can still enjoy their company, catching up over the past months or years and play with the grandchildren – spoiling everyone rotten. And we are not just talking light relief for grandparents, anyone who hasn't got room or got the patience for entertaining 24/7 and wants their home back at the end of the day, can do the same.

We have a few people in the area who regularly treat family to a Christmas stay otherwise they may not see each other for a long while. Families come from abroad and make a full holiday of their stay, visiting the area and old friends for catch up time.

This does not just stop at Christmas of course. If you think this is a good idea and a way around accommodation problems, mixed ages, annoying children, family pets (not yours), noise, mess and more then call us and book a holiday home for your overflow.

It may just be the compromise you need. Happy Christmas!

Sandra Hohol

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On the turf with Charles Joyce

As we move into December the shortest day is with us. At the beginning of the month is the Fairyhouse December festival with three grade ones on the Sunday card. This is the first meeting in Ireland that shines a light on possibles for Cheltenham in March. Winners of the grade ones are not usually long odds, but hopefully the profiles will point us in the right direction. The first of the grade ones is the Hattons Grace Hurdle. The race is named after the triple Champion Hurdle winner trained by Vincent O'Brien. 15 of the last 22 winners had won their previous race, with 20 resting for at least a week, but still having a run in the last 2 months. All 22 winners had a starting price of 13/2 or shorter with 20 winning at 4/1 or less. It's a race where winners return, and the last three runnings have gone to Gordon Elliott's Apples Jade. She let the side down at Navan in November, but could still be hard to beat if she turns up for the four timer.

The other two grade ones are for novices with Willie Mullins dominating the Royal Bond Hurdle. The Closutton trainer has won the race eight times, seven since 2008. 18 of the last 22 winners won their last race. 21 of the last 22 winners were again rested for more than a week with a run in the last 2 months. All of the last 22 winners were to be found in the first four in the betting 15 of them favourite or second favourite. 18 winners were four or five years old.

The Drinmore Novices Chase is the third grade one. 19 of the last 22 winners won their last race, and the other three finished second. 21 winners were aged between five and seven year old. All 22 winners started at 8/1 or less with 19 either favourite or second favourite. A bit of a coincidence is that if you had backed all the second favourites in the race you would have won £19.46 for every pound bet. But that is a coincidence.

In the weekend before Christmas there is a meeting at Ascot. The trainer to look for is Nicky Henderson with his four to six year old hurdlers in Class 1 events when they are Irish (IRE) or French bred (FR) who won their last race or are yet to run in the UK or Ireland.

The big race over Christmas in the UK is the King George VI Chase run at Kempton over three miles. The trainer to look out for here is Paul Nicholls who won with Clan Des Obeaux last year, making it 10 wins for the trainer since 1997. His three previous winners were Kauto Star 2006/07/08/09/11, See More Business 1997/99 and Silvianico Conti 2013/14 all repeated their win. 15 of the last 22 winners won their last race. 12 went off favourite; 18 had a starting price of 6/1 or less. 20 were six to nine years old. 20 of the 22 last winners were rested more than 2 weeks but less than 2 months. (2000 winner First Gold had not run in the UK, and the 2010 race won by Long Run was postponed until January 2011).

One trend for this race stretches back to 1986 when Desert Orchid was the last horse to win without first having contested a three mile chase before winning. It doesn't seem a great trend, but is one that I'd need confidence if ignoring. Two well fancied possibles this year could be Cyrrame, and Altior. At this stage I'm inclined to side with Clan Des Obeaux. He has won only one of the eight grade ones he has tackled, but Kempton maybe his track, and Paul Nicholls other winners all repeated their success.

The big handicap over Christmas is the Welsh Grand National at Chepstow. Up to the middle of the 1970s this was a race for the older horses, but since then horses younger than nine years old have held sway with only four winners older than nine years old, one of those was Raz De Maree when the race was postponed until January 2018. 14 of the previous 22 winners finished first or second on their last run, only one winner went off bigger than 20/1, 20 of the 22 last winners were aged six to nine years old. All of the last 22 winners were off the track at least three weeks, but less than two months, and half of the last 28 winners all had a previous run around the Chepstow track earlier in the season. Last year's winner Elegant Escape carried eleven stone eight pounds to victory, but the overwhelming majority of winners carry less than eleven stone, with only top class horses winning with heavier burdens. For example, Cheltenham Gold Cup winners Synchronised 2010 and Master Oats 1994, Notre Pere 2008 had already won a grade one race, Carvill's Hill in 1991 was rated 172 which is well up to Gold Cup standard.

There is one race we all have an interest in, because on 12 December many of us will place a bet on who should represent us at Westminster and who will lead the country. From a punting perspective my favourite Member of Parliament is not a runner, this year, with Sir Norman Lamb standing down. Twice he overcame the odds to be the MP for North Norfolk. He was odds against in 2001, when he beat incumbent David Prior, and he was again odds against, in 2017, when he retained his seat. This year no one will be surprised where I put my cross, but whoever you vote for, or if you don't vote for anyone, remember the gold rule of punting. Pay the bills first and under no circumstances bet if you cannot afford to lose, because even the best professional punters lose more often than they win. Wishing you a merry and peaceful Christmas and a successful punting New Year.

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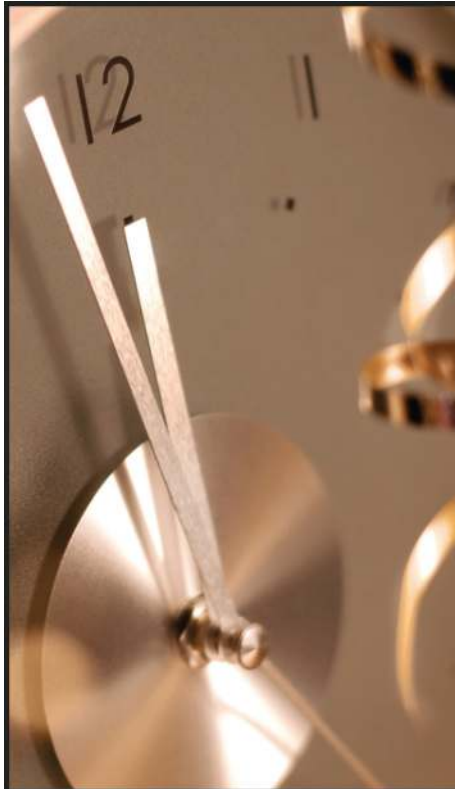
The Lodge is raising funds for Shouldham Ward, which provides palliative care at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn, with a Rock and Roll bingo night on Friday 6th December.

It is bingo, but not as you know it. Instead of your boring old numbers being called out, we've replaced them with 15-20 second bursts of the most toe-tappin', bum wigglin' sing-along songs from the past and present.

.....The numbers on the bingo cards have also been replaced with artists and song titles. So with your bingo card in hand and your dabber on standby, listen out for the songs being played and mark them off as you would a normal game of bingo. Eyes down, or should that be "Ears Open", is at 8pm. Rock & Roll Bingo is an ideal Christmas party for those who prefer something different from the normal meal & disco. Call 01485 532896.

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Sweet treats for Hunstanton Cub Scouts

Sophie Hooker

The Cubs got to satiate their sweet tooth thanks to Mr Bun the Baker during a special weekly meeting on Monday 19th November.

Eleven Cubs and four Scout leaders were given a masterclass in baking and decorating by Mr Bun owner Peter Gohegan.

The Cubs made turtle breads, constructed their own cardboard boxes and decorated buns and biscuits – marshmallows, icing, melted chocolate and sprinkles were just a few of the options on offer.

At the end of the evening they boxed up their treats and took them home with them.

The 1st Hunstanton Scout Cub pack consist of local children aged between eight and ten who regularly help out at community events around the town.

This was their first visit to Mr Bun and the children were very pleased with their goodies and the Scout leaders praised Peter for his kindness and generosity.



1st Hunstanton Cubs and their Scout Leaders with Mr Bun the Baker



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THORNHAM VILLAGE NEWS

VILLAGE CINEMA

Colette - Wednesday 18th December



France, 1893. Colette (Knightley) marries novelist Willy (West), an intellectual. But as their respective affairs become more involved and Colette's work becomes the toast of Paris, their unconventional relationship is tested. Kiera Knightley shines in this gritty, glamorous biopic.

Tickets £5.00 Bar Opens 7.00pm Film Starts 7.30pm

To book call 0781 802 868 or just turn up

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Coppelia - Tuesday 10th December

A classic returns to The Royal Ballet with Ninette de Valois' charming and funny ballet of love, mischief and mechanical dolls. Conducted by Barry Wordsworth with Nunez, Montagirov, Avis and the orchestra of The Royal Opera House.

Tickets £15.00. Children £10.00

Doors open 6.30pm Curtain 7.15pm

Book online at or call 87787 25597

The Nutcracker - Sunday 22nd December

Special matinee performance

Peter Wright's interpretation of The Nutcracker has been enchanting children and adults alike since its first performance by The Royal Ballet in 1984. Lev Ivanov's 1892 ballet combined with Tchaikovsky's



sumptuous, iconic score are presented in a festive period setting with vivid designs to make this a charming and magical production.

Recorded in 2016

Tickets £12.50 Children £10.00

Doors open 4.30pm Curtain 5.00pm

Book online at or call 87787 25597

2020

Our new season of live satellite productions from the Royal Opera House begins in January 2020:

The Sleeping Beauty 16th January

Marston & Scarlett World Premieres 25th February

Fidelio 17th March

Winter Warmer Supper Talks

Friday 10th January

Protecting the Royals - David Reeve

David Reeve is a native of Norfolk and served for 34 years in the Norfolk Constabulary. Much of his career was spent as a detective, but he ultimately commanded the Royal Protection Department based at Sandringham.

His talk will take a look at the serious aspects of the role, but will also include many of the more humorous situations that he found himself in.

Tickets £20.00 including a 2 course supper and welcome drink

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Doors open 6.30pm Talk starts promptly at 7pm followed by supper.

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Whatever the reason you may be struggling with in life, you are not alone. I have helped many people like you to change their stumbling blocks into stepping-stones, so that they may take control over life issues confidently.

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A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

During the last few weeks I have been experimenting with ingredients for soups. I tried Red Cabbage and Parsnip which was very tasty but I didn't know if the purple colour would appeal so I tried Spinach with Celery which was also very tasty but again I felt unsure about the deep green colour (Classic car enthusiasts might call it British Racing Green) So I decided Celery and Bacon with Stilton soup was best to share this month. I will try and get the other recipes on my website if anyone would like to try them.

Celery and Bacon with Stilton soup

Ingredients for 2 generous servings

4 large or 6 smaller sticks Celery

1 medium size onion or shallot

1 medium size Potato

1 rasher back or 2 rashers streaky bacon

Chicken stock cube dissolved in 500ml hot water

Knob of butter

Salt and pepper (I like to use celery salt)

Stilton cheese.

Trim off ends of celery and discard. Clean stalks and slice fairly thinly.

Peel potatoes and cut into small pieces. Peel onion/shallot and slice. Put butter into a saucepan and soften over a low to medium heat, add potato pieces and onion/shallot stir well. Add half of the stock, cook for a few minutes stirring frequently. Add celery slices and rest of stock, stir well. Bring to boil then reduce heat, cover and leave simmering, stirring often, for 10 minutes. Meanwhile cut bacon into small pieces and fry until well but not over cooked, add to stock in saucepan and leave simmering until celery is soft. Add more seasoning if necessary. Strain off liquid into a jug, and put aside. Put vegetables and bacon into a suitable jug or bowl and whizz with blender until well mixed and smooth. Put pureed vegetables back into the saucepan; carefully add in stock from jug stirring until smooth. Reheat, then it is ready to serve topped with crumbled stilton.

For details of Doreen's books, more recipes and 'How to' Video clips visit the Prudent Pensioners page on www.doreenreedpoet.com

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Hunstanton Cliff Parade Bowls Club Presentation Lunch 2019

Hannah Nicholas

Our annual presentation lunch took place on Sunday 20th October at Briarfields Hotel Titchwell and celebrated those members who won in competitions throughout the year.

Members enjoyed a fantastic meal followed by the presentation of trophies and shields. A massive congratulations to all members who received an award and everyone who took part in our club



competitions. It was lovely to see so many members attend and collect their awards and celebrate the year together. You can find more photos and a list of winners and runners up on our website.



Hunstanton Cliff Parade Bowls Club runs many club competitions and we have regular weekend friendly games against teams from other bowls clubs. Our season begins in April and runs until September with a couple of events in October. We welcome new members and hold an open day in April. If you would like more information please go to our website <http://hunstantoncliffparadebowlsclub.net>, find us on Facebook or contact our Chairman John on 01485 534815.

Double sponsorship boost for Heacham Girls

Heacham Minors F.C Girls have received a double sponsorship boost for matchday kit from Spectrum Retail Project Services and training tops from Samphire Building Developments (Norfolk) Ltd.

This new part of Heacham Minors F.C was formed in May this year to give the opportunity for young females to play football in a female only environment which is increasingly popular within the country and there were few opportunities in the local area for this. The role of head coach was taken up by Nathan Stockdale who has various involvements with Heacham F.C including Chairman of the Minors.

Nathan said: "Since taking over the role as Chairman, after being involved in Heacham Minors since childhood, I felt it was time we looked to include more children and expand on the brilliant opportunities we already provide at Heacham.

"With some of the best facilities around, and female players already participating in the mixed teams it was an obvious starting point to achieve this; it has grown from strength to strength with the girls coming week in, week out, rain or shine, averaging around 20 girls aged 5 to 14.

"Thank you to both sponsors who have helped massively in what we are trying to achieve here, their support is hugely appreciated by the club and the girls".

Jo Jutsum, of Spectrum Retail Project Services, was really keen to get involved as soon as she heard of the newly formed training sessions, saying how "great it is to see all these young girls participating in physical activity, smiling and enjoying themselves in a generally male environment. Making the girls feel like a big team is great".

Hollie Ashley, of Samphire Building Developments (Norfolk) Ltd, whose daughter attends the sessions then offered further sponsorship to the girls with training tops for the approaching winter months.

Hollie said: "I can see the enjoyment the girls have each week playing football and being a team even though they are varying ages, and I wanted to help keep that good feel by providing them with something for the winter, that also kept them looking like a team.

For anyone who is interested in joining the sessions, they are run each week on Tuesday 6-7pm at Heacham Football Field at a cost of £1 per week. Nathan Stockdale can be contacted on 07811 629910 or nathan.heachamfc@yahoo.com



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Heacham Manor Golf Club Presentation Evening 2019

Heacham Manor Golf Club held its annual dinner and presentation evening on 8th November. Guests were treated to an enjoyable meal in Heacham Manor's award-winning Mulberry Restaurant. Prizes and trophies for the club winners were awarded and then all the guests enjoyed live music from singer and club member, Cliff Allman.

Main Competition winners included Glynis Thacker and Tony Thacker who won the winter Mixed Pairs League. Seniors Captain Steve Eadie, won the Trebbick Mixed Pairs Greensome with Ann Keeper and Ben King took the trophy for the first ever Daly Winter Eclectic.

Steve Jones was the winner of the new claret jug for the best net score in the Club championships. Carol Allen took the new Hodgkinson Salver which is presented to the best ladies net score in the Club Championships. Keith Whiting collected the Seniors Club Championship trophy. Director Paul Searle and his partner Ed Fowler were awarded the trophy for winning the Men's Summer Pairs Matchplay for the 2nd time in a row.



From left: Edd Fowler, Mark Page, Paul Searle, Steve Hipkin, Ben King, Steve Jones, Aaron Daly, Martin Heath, Warren Bates, Rachel Hodgkinson, Joe Sarsby, Chris Watson, Chloe Tarbard, Cliff Allman, Steve Eadie, Glynis Thacker, Ann Keeper, Christine Hughes, Sophie De Winton, Keith Whiting, Carol Allen.

Steve Hipkin picked up the trophy for the Men's Summer Matchplay and Warren Bates collected the Club Championship Trophy for the 5th consecutive year.

Aaron Daly collected 2 medals as well as a Trophy for the Askew Heath Cup and showed consistency throughout the year with winning prizes awarded for the Espley Ex Manor Cup order of merit competition.

Rachel Hodgkinson, won the inaugural Ladies Daly winter Eclectic, she was the gross winner of the Senior ladies club championship, the order of merit Cribb Ex Cup and also the ladies summer fourball was won with partner Jayne Clarke.

Lady captain Sophie De Winton was the overall winner of the Senior Ladies club Championship, the ladies summer matchplay winner as well as the

ladies winter pairs matchplay along with her partner Christine Hughes.

Heacham Manor remains playable all year round and have a policy of playing on main greens all winter even in frosty conditions. Quality golf is always available at Heacham Manor with their current winter offer of £99 for 4 months membership between 1st Jan 2020 and 30th April 2020.

Heacham Manor's Pro Am

Heacham Manor held their 5th Pro Am on 18th October, which saw 8 PGA Professionals descend onto the course, with every Professional teaming up with 3 amateurs.

The format was best 2 scores counting out of the 4 players. Heacham Manor course was playing well and in fantastic condition for the time of year with the weather cloudy but mainly dry.

The players and Professionals all had a superb day and scoring proved that. The lead changed several times with the eventual winning team being that of the Nigel Elmar, Trevor Bray and John Batty together with professional Andrew Marshall scoring 82 stableford points. Professional Adam Lewarne came in 2nd on 76 points with his team of Heacham Manor Members Michael Lewarne, Leon Espley and Middleton Hall Golf Club member Adam Young. 3rd place fell to Professional Matt Cousins and his team of Heacham Manor members Michael Smith, Terry Taylor and Stephen Eadie on 75 points.

Heacham Manor Head Professional Ray Stocker said "It's been a fantastic day, run really well with superb feedback on the course, food and event. Thanks, must go to all the Professionals who have taken part, the Sponsors Robson Construction and congratulations to the winners"



Heacham Manor Pro Am Competition Winners from left: (Team Winners) Andrew Marshall (Professional), John Batty, Trevor Bray, Nigel Elmar, Paul Searle (Director Searles Leisure Group)

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Searle's Bowls Club Hunstanton

Chris Holt

The Searles Bowls Club presentation evening was held in the Searles Fountain Bar recently and the trophy winners were as follows:

Men's Singles	Rod Quinton
Ladies Singles	Diane Snart
Men's Doubles	Rob Hills & Peter Green
Ladies Doubles	Theresa Hills & Jane Howard
Mixed Doubles	Martin Parry and Jennie Stratton
Mr and Mrs Trophy	Dave and Diane Snart



Coastal Stroke Support and Carers Group

Chris Bryant

The Coastal Stroke Support and Carers Group, based in Hunstanton, aims to provide activities that improve the rehabilitation of stroke survivors and the welfare of their carers. The group has been running for over eight years and supports stroke survivors and their carers within the coastal area. They have members and volunteers travelling from King's Lynn to Hunstanton including Docking and wish to expand the group but require more volunteers to provide their services.

The activities include art and craft sessions, where members are able to develop their artistic skills with the aid of local artists and teachers: classes include painting, flower arranging, mosaics, making cards and so much more.



Above - This art session was run by Maxine Byron (a local artist), supported by volunteers, and attended by group members who produced a colourful picture of a goldfinch

Exercise is a good way of improving mobility and the group provides regular gentle exercise classes to achieve this goal.

On a simple social level, anyone can also come along and meet others in a similar situation, have a cup of tea or coffee and a natter if they wish. It is a friendly group and everyone will be made most welcome.

The group meets at the Methodist Church, Austin Street, Hunstanton every Tuesday between 10:30 and 12:30.

If anyone has some spare time and is maybe looking to become a volunteer and would like to do something really rewarding, you are invited to have a taster session at the group, you never know it might be the thing for you!

Contact information: Gemma Smith: Tel: 01366 377803

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Beavers set to be released in Norfolk for the first time 'in hundreds of years'

Sophie Hooker

The Ken Hill estate have announced that they are set to release six beavers into an enclosure on the Snettisham estate – stating that this will be the first time beavers have existed in Norfolk for centuries.



The move is a bid to improve biodiversity in the area and is part of the Wild Ken Hill project.

Wild Ken Hill state on their website:

"We discussed previously the importance of beavers as a keystone species, and how they create habitats for other species. But this announcement is also timely because of another role that beavers play:

as water management engineers.

"Many experts, including Tony Juniper, have suggested that the current man-made water management systems in the UK are not fit for purpose. The recent, tragic floods in the north of England only reinforce this point.

"Beavers could help us change this. The dams, channels and other structures that beaver engineer will help the land to hold onto water better. Simply, when it rains hard, the land will absorb more water, and when it's dry, the land will also stay wetter.

"And that's why we are investing heavily in the monitoring aspect of our project. We have set up biodiversity monitoring programmes to cover multiple aspects of the beaver enclosure, and we are now working with our local university – University of East Anglia – to set up a water monitoring programme.

"Coupled with the improvements in soil quality that we expect to see in the rest of the rewilding area, Wild Ken Hill will become much more resilient to drought, other unfavourable weather events, and of course climate change."

The six beavers will be released into an enclosure around 60 acres in size and they believe that this will be the largest enclosed project in England to date.

They are currently building the enclosure and are hoping to release the beavers in the spring of 2020.

Photo credit: Ken Hill Estate

Norfolk strikes gold for treasure finds

Sophie Hooker

Good news for local metal detector enthusiasts as latest figures have revealed that the largest number of treasure finds in 2017 and 2018 were discovered in Norfolk.



The Snettisham Great Torc - made from just over a kilogram of gold mixed with silver. Picture: The British Museum

Figures released this month by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport have revealed that 9.6 per cent of treasures were found in the county in 2017 and 9.4 per cent in 2018.

Fellow East of England counties Essex (9 per cent) and Lincolnshire (8 per cent) came just behind Norfolk for number of finds in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Nationally, 1,266 treasure finds were reported in 2017 and 1,070 in 2018, with 96 of finds being discovered thanks to metal detecting, 3 per cent from archaeological finds and 0.5 per cent from field walking.

In 2017, around a third of treasure cases were from the post-medieval period and nearly a quarter were from the medieval period.

The vast majority of reported finds are object cases and with around one fifth being coin cases.

The Treasure Act (1996) defines treasure as being older than 300 years and includes coins, prehistoric metallic objects and artefacts that are at least 10 per cent precious metals such as gold or silver.

However, think again if you believe you can take unearthed treasure home and keep quiet about it – anyone who thinks they have struck a hidden horde has to notify the coroner within two weeks so that the court can hold an inquest to decide who gets the loot. Consequences of not doing so include an unlimited fine or up to three months behind bars.

Notable Norfolk finds over the years include the Hoxne hoard (worth £1.75 million), the Sedgeford hoard and of course, the Snettisham Treasure – a series of at least a dozen hoards making up the biggest deposit of gold, silver and bronze items ever to be found in Europe, most famously made up of 200 torcs buried between 100 and 60BC.



Snettisham Hoard - bottom layer

'Christmas time, chicken wire and twine!'

With Christmas almost upon us there may be tons of things on your 'still to do' list. But why not give your Christmas this year an individual twist by making your own cards, wrapping paper, gift tags or decorations?

Studio @ 55, Heacham, has a special Christmas Creativity Workshop in December to help you get into the creative Christmas spirit. And of course reduce waste, reuse, recycle, upcycle.

For example, Studio @ 55 can help you do Lino cutting, which is great for creating your own, personalised Christmas cards.

Or you could make your own stamps, a good starting point to individualise your own wrapping paper and gift tags, which of course can then be reused time and time again.

And what about tree ornaments? Maybe you want to do something different? Create a special decoration for a loved one, or as a gift? Studio @55 can help you make your own decorations using wood cuts, copper wire, and by upcycling any materials you may have.

The Christmas Creativity Workshop Studio @ 55, Heacham, is on Saturday 14 December 2019 from 1 to 3pm.

just £14 (including tea & mince pies). It's advisable to book in advance as places are limited.

To register or for more information please visit www.adventureintocreativity.com or email Esther, eb@estherboehm.com or give her a call 07538986235.

If you have more than a couple of hours to spare....

How about 'chicken wire and twine': model figures, animals or abstract forms using chicken wire and plaster?



Studio @ 55 will help you make a wire frame to build a sculpture.

Once the frame, or 'armature' is made, several materials can be applied to complete the work.

If clay is used, the piece can be modelled, then from that a mould is made allowing for the casting of your own, personal sculpture.

Some materials such as papier mache, plaster or cement allow you to work directly on the armature.

In this one off workshop Studio @ 55 will help you work out an idea for a sculpture that can be completed in one day.

The armature will be made of wire and chicken wire.

After this, plaster bandages will be applied to complete the sculpture.

Come with your own idea or use books of

artist's work for inspiration.

With a maximum of 4 people in a group you will get plenty of individual attention.

The next workshop will be held on Saturday 7 December from 10 am - 5 pm. The price is just £63, tea and mince pies included.

For more information, please find the contact details below.

NB. If you are interested in a larger more detailed project, perhaps as a Christmas gift or a friends/family experience, I would be happy to run a course providing enough people sign up. Bring your friends. A course is a minimum of 4 weeks. It depends on the scope of your chosen project.

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Hunstanton Remembers

Hundreds of people joined the annual march of Remembrance in Hunstanton on Sunday 10th November, organised by Simon Matthews of the Royal British Legion Hunstanton Branch, including representatives of many local organisations including the Town Council, RNLI, Coastguard, Fire Service, Rotary International, Inner Wheel, Round Table and Ladies Circle.

Led by Hunstanton's Mayor and Mayoress Cllr Tony Bishopp and Mrs Joy Bishopp, the procession made its way through the town's High Street where passers-by stopped to see the spectacle. Members from the USAF 67th, marking their 67th anniversary joined retired and current members of the British Armed Forces and formed up behind the Mayor and Royal British Legion Standards for the march.

Remembrance in the town began this year with the Scouts placing crosses on the War Graves in Hunstanton's Cemetery and the Scouts also joined the march along with Cubs, Beavers and members of Guiding.

After a short service at St Edmund's Church conducted by Fr James Monro, where many had to stand because the church was so full, the procession re-formed and made its way to the War Memorial in the Heritage Gardens where Fr James continued the Act of Remembrance with Sid and Betty Miller, Anthony Jewell with David Young playing the Last Post.

The first wreath was laid at the War Memorial by the Hunstanton Mayor, and this was followed by the 67th wreath laid by Lt Col William J Kelly. Remaining wreaths filled the four sides of the Memorial and the assembled crowd saw 98 year old Leonard Potter, Chevalier (Knight) in the Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur, who served in the RAF in WWII, leave his mobility scooter and walk to the Memorial in his D-Day cap to pay his respects and lay wreaths.





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Letters to the Editor

Thank you for your help

I must thank the local Police, Norfolk Lavender and my very kind neighbours who came to my aid on 25th October when my 89 year old husband (who has Alzheimer's/dementia) escaped on his mobility scooter whilst I was collecting his hat and gloves prior to our going out.

My neighbours immediately collected me to help look for him when the last sight I had of him he was heading for the A149. I then phoned the police; they responded very quickly and sympathetically and whilst we were speaking to them, they received a phone call from Norfolk Lavender to say they had a rather confused elderly man in their care.

The relief was immense and the police kindly took his scooter and ourselves back home. I really cannot thank everyone enough.

Yours sincerely
Colleen Palmer

The square building

Just a moan about the new square monstrosity on Southgate in Hunstanton. How on earth did they get planning permission for that, all others have to keep in with adjoining buildings, or neighbouring buildings. But that fits in with nothing, what a complete and utter eyesore. We should be ashamed of ourselves, for letting it go this far, the poor people on Seagate. As for the Mayor's opinion in Town and Around, he doesn't live there, tells you everything.

Now the 80 room hotel in front of lovely little houses another blooming eyesore, that will put a lot of business out, something else that someone that doesn't live in Hunstanton, has put forward. Lose a lot of our B and B's and caravan Parks, supposed to be a little seaside town not a blooming great city.

I was born in Wells-next-the-sea, and not one place/ building in it, is as out of place as the stupid square thing or as big and cumbersome as a 80 room hotel, and that is more popular than Hunstanton. Surely that tells you something, come on Hunstanton, this is supposed to be a quiet family orientated seaside resort. Let them know, not got our, or should I say my vote.

Extremely disgruntled resident
Monica Burton

Widdershins Witch Hunt

The Widdershins Witch Hunt around town proved to be lots of half term fun. There were 57 entries and Ronan Cozens, age 5, of Hunstanton was the winner. Ronan won a Halloween bag filled with goodies and vouchers worth £5 to spend in Hunstanton Library. Thank you to the Library and SJP Solicitors for sponsoring the prizes and also the Frightful Fun afternoon in the Library.

Clues were found at Keelie's Beauty Salon, Unique Computers, Kemps Fruit and Veg, The Hemporium, Mr Bun The Baker, Candy n Cream sweet shop, The World's Biggest Joke Shop, The Coffee Pot cafe, Tourist Information Centre and The Salad Bowl Cafe. Thank you to all the businesses who kindly displayed the clues and supported the event. £50 was raised for East Anglia's Children's Hospices.

Celia's House of Halloween on 31 October raised £26.18 in donations for the Hunstanton Charity Shop. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Celia McAteer

T&A Magazine

Every month I look forward to receiving Town and Around. I eagerly read the news about all the villages and revive happy memories of when I lived in Norfolk.

I also welcome the news from the schools and the churches, such a variety of interesting articles.

Thank you for all the hard work you must do to keep such a vibrant publication giving enjoyment to many people.

Kind regards

Sylvia Colwell

Editor's notes:

Many thanks Sylvia. And for readers who are not aware, we offer a postage service for those who have moved away and want to keep in touch with what's going on in this corner of the world. Contact me for details.

Letters for the January edition should be sent by 12th December to: editor@townandaround.net

or posted to: Town and Around, The Perches, 18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF

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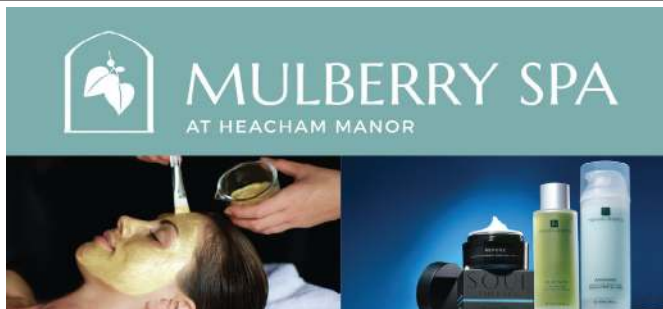
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Wells Community Hospital Trust

As the end of the year approaches it is a time to reflect on what has been a very busy and interesting year, here at your hospital. Our fundraising events have indeed raised our profile and bought in much needed funds enabling us to provide health & wellbeing services in your community. A tribute to the generosity of our local businesses, volunteers, staff and our loyal patrons. Thank you and a very Merry Christmas one and all.

1000 Club WINNERS!

October 2019 Winners:

1st Prize – Mrs P Baldry

2nd Prize – Mr M Hubbard

First prize - £120 per calendar month, second prize - £40 per calendar month. For an application form please call 01328 711996

Fundraising & Events:

Halloween Bingo - a massive thank you to the volunteers, cake bakers, local businesses and staff that supported our Spooktacular Halloween Bingo on 25th October! With over 80 participants enjoying the ghoulish fun, we raised a staggering £820! Thank you!

Do join us for our Christmas Celebration on Wednesday 18th Dec from 1030am – festive songs, mince pies and other seasonal refreshments – everyone is welcome and there is no charge! Transport is available... just ask!

Services & Clinics:

Fit Together Walks (Active Norfolk)

Friday 18th December 1030am - meeting at the hospital, a flat circular (AND FESTIVE!!) walk with a mixture of concrete, dirt, grass, sand and woodland with gentle gradients. Free parking and £1 donation for tea/coffee/biscuits after the walk. Melanie Brown, Phone: 07766 259 999/ 01263 516029, Email: mel.brown@activenorfolk.org

Fun & Forgetfulness Drop-ins (Formerly Dementia Hub)

Are you a relative, carer of someone who is living with dementia, memory loss or who is isolated & lonely?

We provide fun & supportive drop-in group sessions every Wednesday morning between 10.30 – 12.00. Whether you enjoy a game of cards and old-fashioned board games or want to join our art & craft classes, enjoy drumming or like a good old sing-along – there is something for everyone! All sessions are run by trained volunteers so whilst you are most welcome to stay and join in, you could take some time out in the knowledge that your loved one will be supported safely and considerately in your absence. All session and refreshments are free, and transport can be arranged. Please do call on 01328 711 996 for more information.

National Diabetes Prevention Programme

Healthier You: NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme provides tailored, personalised support to for those identified at risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes in order to reduce this risk - including education on healthy eating and lifestyle, help to lose weight and physical exercise programmes.

Referrals are via your GP. Starting from 14th Jan 2020

Rex Wellbeing – Holistic Health Clinics

Rex offers his holistic health clinics here at Wells Community Hospital on Mondays, providing Reiki and stress management sessions, as well as Shiatsu, Cranial Sacral Therapy, Neural Linguistic Programming and Life Coaching. Rex has also been teaching regular Yoga for over 20 years and also does one to one sessions and tailor makes the programs to suit his client's individual needs and goals. Please do contact Rex for more information & to book your appointment Mobile: 07961 824908 Email: rex.pacheco.rp@gmail.com

Study finds a green solution in halving children's pollutant exposure

A new study has found that vegetation barriers along roads can mitigate the effects of air pollution from traffic and simply planting a hedge in front of a park can halve the amount of traffic pollution that reaches children as they play

In what is believed to be the first study of its kind, experts from Surrey's Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARE) conducted a five-month continuous experiment, measuring traffic pollutants with the use of emerging pollution sensing technology behind and in front of a hedge that shielded a children's park in Guildford, United Kingdom.

The study aimed to measure any discernible difference in pollution reduction during the vegetation cycle of a Beech hedge – from dormancy to green-up to maturity.

The results showed that a drop in pollution concentration levels behind the hedge was dominated by three factors – the weather, public holidays, and the stage of the hedge's life cycle.

GCARE experts reported reductions of more than 50 per cent of the particulate matter after the hedge's green-up stage in late April. Experts believe that this could be because the density of the hedge or the stickiness of the leaves had a sizable impact on particle pollutants passing through it. However, the results also revealed smaller reductions for gaseous pollutants including carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide, and that wind direction had little impact on the concentration levels.

Professor Prashant Kumar, founding Director of GCARE at the University of Surrey and the corresponding author of the study, said: "We have a long history of research in this area, starting with our first journal publication in 2014, which assessed the potential of roadside vegetation to reduce exposure to ultrafine particles, a study that was subsequently expanded to investigate larger-sized fine and coarse particles along busy roadsides. This journey continued with assessments of the relative potential of trees,



hedges, green roofs and walls in city environments and proposed modelling methods for evaluating the impact of green infrastructure. Most recently, our research has highlighted the nexus between green infrastructure, air pollution and human health and we have even released guidance on the implementation of green infrastructure for air pollution abatement.

"What was missing from earlier work was an understanding of how the vegetation cycle of roadside hedges influences their capacity for air pollution mitigation. This required long-term measurements to capture various phases, including dormancy, leaf emergence and maturity.

"We believe our study is the first to look at

how a hedge affects the pollution from traffic – assessing the influence of the vegetation lifecycle, wind direction and other variables. The reduction in pollution after the green-up stage gives valuable information regarding where to install green infrastructure across our communities. This study has not only produced unique evidence and support for our advocacy to install hedges and other forms of green infrastructure (where appropriate) along busy roadsides to protect schools, playgrounds and pedestrians/cyclists from air pollution exposure; it has also provided a clear indication that evergreen species should be favoured for barriers against air pollution to exploit their year-round performance."

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About 50 people attended the Parish Ladies Shared Lunch on Saturday 9 November at St Cecilia's church. We had a wonderful musical afternoon with entertainment provided by singer Cathy Martini from Oregon and the U3A Handbells Group from King's Lynn. There was also a very good selection of food and some great raffle prizes. A generous amount was donated to the 'Blood Bikes' charity. Thanks go to all who helped in any way and especially to May Davey, who organised the event.

Our Christmas Mass times are as follows; Christmas Eve [Midnight Mass] is 9pm at the parish church, Our Lady & St Edmunds, Hunstanton. Christmas Day Mass will be at 10am in both Hunstanton and Dersingham churches. All welcome.

There is a Fair Trade Stall at St Cecilia's after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. Please support this very worthwhile cause by buying fairly traded goods to support families abroad trying to earn a living. For more information please contact Caroline Brooks on 01553 673069.

All social events will be well publicised in the weekly bulletins and

on the website. Everyone, whether Catholic or not, is welcome to all of our services and social occasions. We have refreshments after the 11am Mass every Sunday and after 10.15am Mass every Wednesday. There are also refreshments after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of the month at Dersingham. Everyone will be most welcome.

Daily Masses are 10am in St Theresa's Convent, 27 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, during the winter months, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday mass is at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham.

Sunday Masses are 9am at St Cecilia's, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at the Parish Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmunds, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

If you require a Priest urgently please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220. or email parishpriest763@gmail.com
Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org
Web: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

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Stillness and gratitude at Christmas

A Christmas message from Christian Science Society, 10 Queens Drive, Hunstanton

"Stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God." said Job in the Bible.

At this time of year, we can also be still, like Job, and think about God's wonderful works. We like to pause and appreciate the love that God has for all His children. What better time than Christmas to reflect on God's wondrous works, a time that is often considered to be the most important event in our history - the birth of Jesus Christ and his revelation to us of our divine relationship to God as His sons and daughters, a revelation that brings love and peace.

Jesus Christ through his example showed the world unconditional love, forgiveness, compassion, justice and healing. Through his life, Jesus fulfilled prophecy and upheld the Ten Commandments which are the basis for the laws of this country. And summing up those Commandments, he left us his core teaching, to love God and to love one another as we love ourselves.

Mary Baker Eddy, who founded the Christian Science church and had a great love for the Bible and Jesus Christ, wrote in her book, Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures, that it was his relationship with his Father "which enabled Jesus to heal the sick, cast

out evil and raise the dead." While we celebrate Christmas with our friends and family, we can be grateful and pause in our busy-ness to consider the original reason for our celebrations and glimpse those "wondrous works of God" that Job urged us to consider.

We at Christian Science Society Hunstanton wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas!

Our church services are held every Sunday at 11am at 10 Queens Drive, Hunstanton. We also hold a service on the first Wednesday of each month at noon during the winter months (Oct-Mar) and you will be warmly welcomed. You can help yourself to free magazines on Christian Science from the box outside the church, and for more information on Christian Science visit www.christianscience.com



HUNSTANTON METHODIST CHURCH

Just a thought...

What difference does your faith make to you? A strange question to start perhaps, but I think it is important we ask this question not only of others but ourselves.

Why do we need to ask this question? Because people of no faith must think we are really strange because we believe as Christians in someone we have never seen, that we celebrate at Christmas the birth of a child we believe is the Son of God.

It is time to speak out even though speaking out about what a difference our faith makes can be a daunting task, but it has become a necessary one.

With everything that is happening around us, not only in our country but in our own communities searching for answers has become a priority. I am not saying that as Christians we have all the answers but what I am saying is that a faith enables us to lay our concerns on a God who listens and enables a hope that wasn't there before. Our faith gives us strength to carry on when things go wrong, to give us a peace that goes beyond understanding. Our faith also gives a great joy which sometimes must seem very odd to many people as we let this joy out in song and praise in Church and in our everyday life.

The Hunstanton Methodist Church believe it is time for us to share our faith with you. We want to tell you about Jesus in our lives and we want to tell you of a new life in Him which has made such a difference in our personal lives and as a community of faith.

Over the coming months there will be an opportunity to come and ask your questions of us. Perhaps you would like to know - Who is Jesus? What happens in Church? What is this new life? What on earth is a Methodist anyway? Why do we worship a God we cannot see? What difference does our faith make?

So look out for the above logo which will be letting you know what will be going on and when. There will be opportunities to come and chat on a one to one or to come and see, but most of all it will enable us to tell you why Jesus makes a difference to us.

In the meantime, please join us for our carol service on the 22nd December where we will be raising our voices in song, praise and yes laughter.

I wish you all a joyous and blessed Christmas and look forward to chatting to you soon

Steve, Rev Steve Oliver

Café Praise 10.30 a.m. 1 December 2019 	Sunday 8 December All Age Worship led by Hazel Miles at 10.30 a.m. You are invited to join us on Sunday 8 December at 6.00pm for A Service of REMEMBRANCE and LIGHT	Sunday 15 December at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion with Rev Pam Bayliss
Sunday 22 December at 10.30 a.m. CAROL SERVICE 	You are welcome 	Christmas Day 9.15 a.m. Worship the King

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A Service of
REMEMBRANCE and LIGHT

FIND US : Hunstanton Methodist Church, PE36 6AL
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December is a very busy time for us in The Salvation Army. Our band is out at various times and places throughout the month playing carols so you are likely to see us at some point over Christmas.

We have our Christmas Afternoon Tea on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th December. Tickets are £6 and are available from The Salvation Army. Then from Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st December we have our Christmas Tree Festival where local groups and organisations decorate a tree. Come along and see the trees, vote for your favourite and enjoy refreshments. We are open from 10am until 4pm on all three days.

We also take in donations for our Toys and Tins Appeal and distribute these to families in need. If you would like to donate tinned or packet food or toys (these must be new) for this appeal you can take them to our Community Shop in Hunstanton or bring them to The Salvation Army in Snettisham on days when we are open.

Our Carol Service is on Sunday 22nd December at 3pm. Come and join us to sing carols, hear the band and watch the timbrels! We will also have a Christmas Day meeting at 10.30am followed by light refreshments.

I'm sure we all love to watch young children in a school nativity play don't we. They take it all very seriously and this can lead to some humorous situations. One of the many stories told is one in which it was the turn of the shepherds to enter onto the scene of one such nativity play. Four small boys entered nervously onto the stage dressed in dressing gowns and tea towels on head and knelt down by the manger each holding a cuddly sheep.

The teacher had encouraged them during rehearsals to use their own words (a very dangerous thing to do). They are all quiet for a moment gazing down into the face of the doll chosen to be the baby Jesus and

then one of them blurts out "oh he's the spitting image of his dad!"

The young boy had heard his mum say this when she had seen a neighbor's new baby and so this is what came to mind when he was asked to say something about a new baby. The audience laughed but there was a profound truth in what the boy said. Jesus was just like his father. He came to earth so that we might know just what God is like. He is the visible likeness of the invisible God.

His whole life, his words his actions were meant to show us what God was like. To show us that God isn't distant and remote but is here on earth waiting to enter into our lives.

A French proverb says "God often visits us, but most of the time we're not at home."

God saw this world had a great need and he needed to help but how?

If our greatest need had been information God would have sent us an instructor. If our greatest need had been technology God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money God would have sent us an economist. If our greatest need had been pleasure God would have sent us an entertainer but our greatest need was forgiveness so God sent us a Saviour.

When we look to Jesus we can learn a lot about love and forgiveness and when we change from just looking to following then he offers us the strength to live more positively and become more like his dad.

John 14:9 & 11 says "Anyone who has seen me has seen the father... .. Believe me when I say that I am in the father and the father is in me.

If God visits you this Christmas don't turn him away invite him into your life – it will never be the same again!

God is hidden no more
He has spoken his mind
Wrapped the gift of his love
In the stuff of mankind
Now his nature is known
He is love undefiled
And his love is revealed
In the face of a child

(John Gowans)

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for Christmas and a blessed and peaceful New Year.

Alison Kirby, Corps Leader

For more information about Snettisham Salvation Army visit our website www.salvationarmy.org.uk/snettisham

You can contact us on 01485 579079 or email alison.kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook 'Snettisham Salvation Army'



Our Christmas lecture – Monday 9th December

A Right Royal Christmas

How our royal families have celebrated Christmas throughout their long history, from William the Conqueror, making sure of his claim to the English throne, by being crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066 - to the witty - Mrs Thatcher sent the Queen a pair of yellow washing-up gloves, having seen her Majesty doing the dishes without any.

Visitors very welcome

2.00pm - Sedgeford Village Hall

To book a seat call Felicity Pugh 01485 210891

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Saturday 21st December 3.30-5.00pm

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Contact Marie - 07866 889967

Hunstanton & Saxon Shore



St. Edmund's Church Hunstanton Sunday December 1st



**Advent Sunday
& Hunstanton Christmas Festive Sunday**
10.30am: Parish Eucharist
12 noon onwards: the church will be open for free refreshments, with stalls in the aisles
4pm: "Jesus, Light of the World"
Advent Candlelit Carol Service
4.30pm: Procession from St. Edmund's to the Town Christmas Lights

A message from the new Team Rector

Dear Friends,

Let me introduce myself to you. My name is Rachael Dines and as from the 25th of November I am to be your new Team Rector of the newly formed benefice of Hunstanton and Saxon Shore. This is an exciting time for the eight churches and parishes that combine Hunstanton and Ringstead with the existing Saxon Shore group.

The new benefice will, in due time, have a team ministry comprising: me as the Team Rector, someone, yet to be found, who will come as a part time Team Vicar and the existing Assistant Priest James Monro. Our team wouldn't be complete without the gracious help of our retired clergy, to whom I am immensely grateful, who have kept the variety of services going throughout the vacancy. This is a time of new things for both you and me so I hope and pray that we can walk this path together, celebrating each other's strengths and supporting each other in times of need.

It was many months ago that it was suggested that I consider applying for the post of Team Rector and at the time I really didn't know much of this patch. My rescue dog, Pippi (slightly bonkers, 11 year old Parson Jack Russell) and I got into the car and drove over to see the area, and of course the churches. I was absolutely delighted to find every single church open and welcoming. It was at this stage that I commented to a friend, who had joined me for the day, that this was a beautiful place and I thought that there was much to take delight in... but I really wasn't sure this was where God could possibly want me!

Over the next few months I kept coming back to have a look. It felt like being drawn to return to a place where I started to feel at home. I have lived by the sea for a considerable length of time in my life and it was this, at first, that made me feel comfortable. I know what living by the sea can be like on a windy winter day... and it didn't put me off! I have always said that it is the people who can make a place feel welcoming and as I started to meet a few folks I certainly felt that sense of warmth and excitement for the future. I have already had a great welcome as I have moved in to the Rectory in Old Hunstanton. Thank you for all the cards, calls and welcome gifts of food and company! I now know that this IS where God has called me to serve, and I am excited for our future together.

I guess you may want to know a little bit more about me and the best way to do that is to come and talk to me! For now, though, I will give you some basic information... I have just moved from North Walsham, where I was the curate for just over three very happy years. I completed my theological training at Cranmer Hall, St John's College, Durham. Prior to that I was a teacher for 20+ years in Essex, Kent and Norfolk, in both state and independent schools. I have also dabbled in the antiques business. I love baking, entertaining friends, sewing and quilt making and walking Pippi. I enjoy meeting new



Photo credit: <https://keepingmeachristian.wordpress.com/>

people, which is a good job as I have lots of you to meet and work with in the coming months and years. I look forward to the future with you all and ask for your prayers as we start this new venture together. With God, By His Holy Spirit guiding us, I am sure that we will have a future filled with times of both challenge but also blessing.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all who have worked so hard during the vacancy, your work is appreciated and you have my heartfelt gratitude.

If you read this before the 25th November you are very welcome to join us for the licensing service at St Edmund's in Hunstanton at 7.30pm. Bishop Jonathan will be with us, and I believe that there will be cake!

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our many Christmas services over the coming weeks. There is a service near you... do join us for a warm welcome and to celebrate Jesus 'born that man no more may die'

God bless and may you have a happy Christmas and a peace filled new year.

**Revd. Rachael Dines
Team Rector**

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S SNETTISHAM

Time to move on!

2019 has been a strange year in many ways for us at The Friends.

Yes, we have had a full year of very enjoyable and successful concerts and recitals and revenue is up on last year, but little seems to be going on re the "Spire project".

Behind the scenes though much has been happening for to progress a major project such as the Spire, a lot of background preparatory consultation must take place. The original plans we were left with in 2018 had to be revised in view of comments from the Diocese planners, our original architect moved on, so it seemed a timely place to revise everything. This we did with Les Bailey at Spire Consultancy (part of the Diocese) and these plans were successfully presented to the Annual Parish Council meeting. Following that we had a public launch and showed the plans at the annual village fete. From that and ongoing we have been collecting comments sheets and bringing together a pile of information to back up the plans.

In order to apply for major funding, we must be seen to be connecting with the local community and fortunately this is something we had done particularly well in the last three weeks and continue to improve. We took on a professional fund raiser as applications for major fund raising requires specialist training and a lot of time. Saul Penfold, our fund raiser has been consulting with various local bodies such as schools, museums etc to get feedback. The more we can get the whole area on board the better.

Lastly, last week we had a meeting with the British Museum. At all points we wanted the project to be very much a community, educational and heritage project but we never thought we would be able to engage with such an illustrious body as the British Museum. Our enquiry was timely as they had just completed a 7-year research project into the Snettisham Hoard, the publication of which will be released within the next 12 – 14 months. The senior curator who came to meet up called the Snettisham Hoard "the most important Iron Age find in the whole world!". We seem to have hit a pot of gold (literally!) and so we shall be working with them towards our application for Lottery Funding in the coming months. What an illustrious body backing our cause.

The initial application will be to see if the powers that be like the project. If they do, they will pay for the more detailed consultations that are necessary to progress the project. That does not guarantee getting the money, but it helps. Once we have the results of those investigations, we will be able to go to finite planning applications and hopefully achieve all the funding.

We now have a very cohesive team working with us who are as enthusiastic as we are ourselves. We also have a new vicar who has brought an objective insight to the scheme. Having worked on this project now for three years, it is good to occasionally step back and review.

With your support we have been able to increase our concert schedule and bring on board more professional performers and we are certainly getting a reputation for being the place to come and listen and enjoy classical music in this area.

Our calendar of events for 2020 will be out in early January and 2020 promises to be a truly exciting year again with artists from London, Korea, Costa Rica, Japan as well as home grown ones from Norfolk.

To conclude the year, we shall welcome back the wonderful ladies' group "The Samphires" who will entertain us royally we are sure with a wide range of Christmas songs and carols, some to sing along to.

As well as being our last event of the year it will be the held on the day of St Mary's Advent Party. This event which includes stalls offering hot chocolate, Christmas coffee, hot dogs, craft and food stalls and activities for children will advertise our Alpha course which starts in February, have live music and be a further opportunity to view the Spire project. After the recital, the Christmas lights will be switched on and mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

A fitting celebratory end to another successful year.

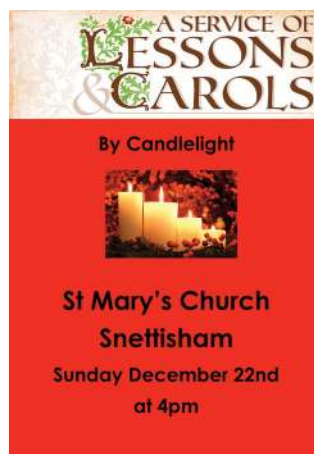
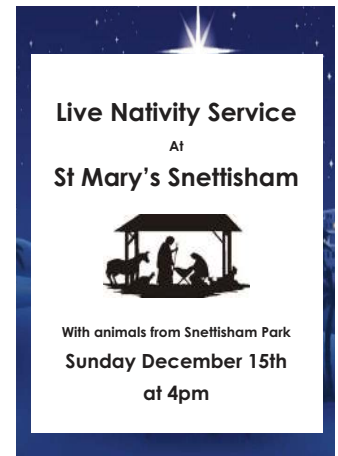
Hopefully in 2020 our newsletter will be more frequent as we progress our project more actively.

Do come and share our event on November 30th if you can. We would love to see you. Come to the wide choice of Christmas services that are planned too.

Thank you so much for your support of this amazing church and we all wish you a very happy and enjoyable Christmas.

All good wishes

Marian Abramovich: Chair of The Friends of St Mary's



What Did The Angels Say?

Gill Tanner, a member of The Way C F Leadership team

'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.'

The earth is far from a peaceful place. As I write this in November, we have just celebrated the courage of the soldiers who gave their lives in the last two world wars and in subsequent ones. There are tensions and volatile situations all over the planet.

So where is this peace the angels spoke of as they announced baby Jesus' birth? One of His titles in the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament is the 'Prince of Peace', and yet Jesus said there would be wars and rumours of wars right up to the time of his return to the earth. The bible tells us that at that time the nations of the earth will be gathered together against Israel to invade and destroy her, and at that point Jesus' feet will stand on the Mount of Olives and He will intervene, ushering in his reign over the earth.

Jesus came to bring peace between us and His Father God. The separation caused by our sin had cut us off from the creator who designed us and loves us. Peace with God was made on the cross when Jesus took the punishment for all the mess and evil in the world into his own body and was crucified in our place so that we can have a relationship with our heavenly Father. Such love hung there, demonstrating who God is. All we have to do is believe and exchange our messed up lives for his beautiful unselfish one.

It is a precious thing to have peace with God, peace with others and peace with ourselves. It is a recipe for mental health in a stressful, pressured world. Jesus left this gift with his disciples as he was about to go to his death. John's gospel 14.27 reads - 'Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid'

When we open our gifts this Christmas however expensive and desirable, they will come nowhere near the costly gift that Jesus offers us out of his great love for each one of us. He says 'come unto me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest'. Why not receive this amazing gift - his peace for life, not just for Christmas.

King's Lynn Festival Chorus

Christmas Fantasia

A Concert of festive music and readings with audience Carols and mulled wine.

Featuring Vaughan-Williams' "Fantasia on Christmas Carols"

**Saturday 21st
December 2019
4.30pm**

**King's Lynn
Minster**

**Conductor: Tom Appleton
Organist: Ben Horden**

£12 PER TICKET

A CHRISTMAS CABARET

COMEDY MUSIC & FOOD

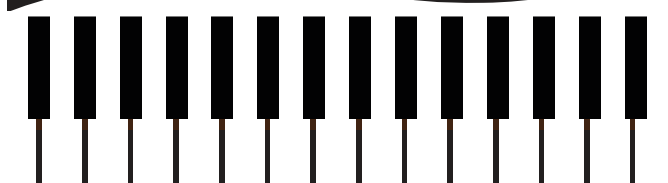
**DECEMBER 14TH - 7.30PM - 10.30PM
SEDFORD VILLAGE HALL**

Jenny Beake...Is building a reputation in Norfolk for her songwriting. A talented comedian and pianist Jenny's material was recently aired on Radio Norfolk.

Shaun McKenna...A versatile vocalist and guitarist who covers well known favourite songs. His Irish heritage has been known to encourage foot tapping or dare we say it...dancing!

All That Jazz... Seasoned players, this laid-back band will open the show in their inimitable style...firm favourites in Sedgford.

**CHRISTMAS BUFFET INCLUDED - BRING YOUR OWN BOOZE
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or email: carter615@btinternet.com**

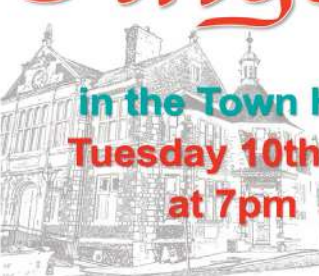
Sedgford Village Hall, Jarvie Close, PE36 5NG - Regd Charity No. 30405834763

**Hunstanton
Community Choir**

**proudly
presents a**

Christmas Singalong

**with guests
in the Town Hall, Hunstanton
Tuesday 10th December 2019
at 7pm Entrance: £6.50
including refreshments**

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Hunstanton Primary School news

Our pupils had a Pumpkin Carving Competition on 30th October run by our fabulous PTA members. As you can see in the picture the entries were fantastic. Well done to Yazmin, Chloe J, Frankie and Phoebe E who won the competition for their year groups.



Visit to the Library

On 12th November our Foundation Stage pupils visited the Library in Hunstanton, listened to a story and learned how the library works.

Hunstanton Primary School Open Day

Thursday 12th December 2019 at 10am, 2pm, 4pm and 7pm

Please come along and have a tour around our lovely school to meet and greet our governors, headteacher, teachers, pupils, PTA and support staff.

This invitation is warmly sent to everyone in the local community and especially welcoming prospective new parents and children. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits available and a chance to see what our school has to offer your family.

Discovery Cafés

This term we have introduced Discovery Cafés in school. The aim of these sessions is to support parents in understanding how we teach their children and what they can do to support their child's learning at home.



Each class invited parents and carers into school to observe teaching with a particular learning focus. They then had the opportunity to work with their child to support and extend their learning with a fun activity.

The Year 6 children made gas masks linked to their literacy text called Goodnight Mister Tom. The sharing of knowledge and skills took place in an informal 'pop up Café' environment created in school, with refreshments provided.



Field School



We continue to have our weekly Field School which the children love. They have been building fires, making delicious food (with leaves, mud and worms) in the outside kitchen, toasting marshmallows and exploring our exciting outside space. Spotted on our school field this month, a hedgehog, a stoat and red kites flying above the field.



NEW ADDITIONS TO THE GLEBE FAMILY

Louis Taylor, Headmaster

Glebe House School has been delighted to announce in the past month two new additions to the Glebe Family, Hunstanton and Gaywood First Steps Nurseries.

Formerly known as Spring Hunstanton and Spring Gaywood, the two nurseries are both wonderful places for young children to develop and learn.



The Head of the Board of Governors at Glebe House School, Nick Crane, is delighted to welcome them on to the Glebe team.

"When we were given this opportunity, we saw what great work was being done at Gaywood and Hunstanton already. To take these nurseries on and continue to improve the offering for local families is part of our remit as a charity and something that we are excited to get started with."



If you are interested in a place for your child at either Glebe, Hunstanton or Gaywood nurseries, with funding available for an extended 30 hours very soon at all settings,

you can contact our office at ghs@glebehouseschool.co.uk who will put you in touch with the right people.



Christmas GIFT FAIR

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER GLEBE HOUSE SCHOOL

Cromer Road, Hunstanton
10am-4pm

Over 50 of the best of Norfolk's Independent Retailers



Glebe House
School & Nursery



December Diary

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Glebe House School Christmas Gift Fair 10am-4pm, with over 50 of the best of Norfolk's Independent Retailers. Cromer Road Hunstanton PE36 6HW</p> <p>1 Antique and Vintage Fair at Thornham Village Hall. Quality, interesting and unusual items from local enthusiasts. 10am-4pm. Enquiries 07840077613. Dogs, other than assistance dogs, are not allowed in the hall but a dog sitting service is provided at the door for a donation to PACT Animal Sanctuary.</p> <p>1 Hunstanton Library Mrs Claus' Festive Fun 1.30pm Christmas stories, photo booth and lantern making.</p> <p>1 Hunstanton Festive Funday, Light Parade and Christmas Lights switch-on. Lots of fun for all the family around the town from noon to 5pm</p> <p>1 Salvation Army Carol Service Heacham Public Hall 3pm</p> <p>1 Hunstanton Conservative Club, High St, Hunstanton: Special Mulled Wine and Mince Pies from 3.30pm.</p> <p>3 Docking Walking Group 2pm Walsingham and Pilgrims Way. Meet at Coach Park £.*</p> <p>3 Hustings at St Mary's Heacham with the four candidates standing in the North West Norfolk Constituency in the General Election. 6.30pm. Refreshments. Postcode: PE31 7HJ</p> <p>3 Brancaster Camera Club: Brancaster Staithe Village Hall on alternate Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm. Please contact Jim Till on 01485 210013 or Wendy Calow on 01553 674725 for dates and more information. Visitors always welcome. An evening with Ian Ward. Local photographer.</p> <p>3 United Services Club, Homefields Road Hunstanton Carol Sing Along with the Hunstanton Concert Band 7.30pm</p> <p>4 Hunstanton Library Busy Books and Beats 10.30-11.30 Stories, songs and rhymes and some fun activities for the Story of the week helping to develop your little one's communication and language skills.</p> <p>5 Hunstanton Library 10am Cross Stitch Workshop with Jenny's Little Treasures. £10 per term including all materials or £5 if using own materials</p> <p>5 Fridhem Rest Home Christmas Tea Dance 12 noon-4pm at Heacham Manor hotel inc 2 course meal Tea and Coffee. Dancing to live music £25 a ticket. Call 01485 571455</p> <p>5 Christmas Sugarcraft Workshops with Michelle Carpenter, The Holme Cake company. Dersingham Village Centre 1pm-3pm £7.50 includes materials. Refreshments provided. Book via Sue Payne on 07790 349896</p> <p>5 Stanhoe & Barwick WI Gary Bocking will demonstrate making festive flower arrangements on a budget. Visitors are very welcome. 2pm in the Reading Room, Cross Lane, Stanhoe PE31 8PS For further information about Stanhoe & Barwick WI, please contact Valerie (01485 576261)</p> <p>6 Dersingham Christmas Market 6pm – 9pm 30+ stalls with a mixture of crafts people and small local businesses selling a variety of gifts, decorations and cards. Christmas carols and refreshments will also be added to the festive atmosphere. There will be a pop up bar serving alcohol and mulled wine and a cafe serving hot drinks, snacks and cakes with any profits going to the Village Hall fundraising.</p> <p>6-7 Christmas Afternoon Tea 3pm both days Salvation Army Hall Snettisham. Tickets £6 must be booked in advance.</p> <p>6-8 Christmas Tree Festival at Hunstanton Town Hall. Opens 12noon on 6th & 10-4pm on Saturday and Sunday. Mulled wine and mince pies. Father Christmas Sat & Sun contact</p> | <p>7 Church Fair and Soup Lunches in aid of St Mary's Church, South Creake at the Memorial Pavilion South Creake midday-3pm. Raffle, Cakes, Tombola & Christmas Goodies</p> <p>7 Cinema in the Creakes presents YESTERDAY. Fun, Musical Drama- Made in NORFOLK 116 mins Cert 12 Jack Malik is a struggling singer-songwriter in a tiny English seaside town whose dreams of fame are rapidly fading, despite the fierce devotion and support of his childhood best friend, Ellie. After a freak bus accident during a mysterious global blackout, Jack wakes up to discover that The Beatles have never existed... and he finds himself with a very complicated problem, indeed. North Creake Village Hall £5 incl complimentary drink from the licensed bar which opens at 7pm. Film at 7.30pm tickets 07905 805388 or pa.lines@tiscali.co.uk</p> <p>7 United Services Club, Homefields Road Hunstanton entertainment: High Definition 8.30pm</p> <p>8 Docking Walking Group 11am Stiffkey and Coast Path. Meet at Red Lion PH, A149 at Stiffkey*</p> <p>9 A Right Royal Christmas – The Arts Society North West Norfolk Christmas Lecture at Sedgeford Village Hall 2pm To book a seat call Felicity Pugh on 01485 210891</p> <p>10 Brancaster Camera Club: Brancaster Staithe Village Hall AGM 2pm followed by a buffet. Please contact Jim Till on 01485 210013 or Wendy Calow on 01553 674725 for more information. Members are welcome as are visitors who might be interested in joining us next year</p> <p>10 Live by Satellite from the Royal Opera House Covent Garden Coppelias. Thornham Village Hall tickets £15 (Children £10) Doors 6.30pm Curtain 7.15pm</p> <p>10 Hunstanton Community Choir present a Christmas Singalong with guests at Hunstanton Town Hall at 7pm £6.50 including refreshments</p> <p>11 Hunstanton Library Busy Books and Beats 10.30-11.30 Stories, songs and rhymes and some fun activities for the Story of the week helping to develop your little one's communication and language skills.</p> <p>11 Hunstanton & District civic Society AGM 6.30pm prior to a light buffet & [poems from Doreen Reed. Town Hall Basement, Hunstanton.</p> <p>12 General Election</p> <p>12 Hunstanton Conservative Club, High St, Hunstanton: Christmas Lunch at 1.30pm</p> <p>12 Hunstanton Conservative Club, High St, Hunstanton: Christmas Draw at 1pm</p> <p>12 Christmas Sugarcraft Workshops with Michelle Carpenter, The Holme Cake company. Dersingham Village Centre 1pm-3pm £7.50 includes materials. Refreshments provided. Book via Sue Payne on 07790 349896</p> <p>13 Docking Walking Group 11am Burnham Overy Staithe – Coast Path and Mills. Meet at The Hero PH.*</p> <p>13 Christmas Social at St Mary's Church, Old Hunstanton 6-9pm. Food, fun, festivities and fellowship. Contact Marie for details on 07866 889967</p> <p>13 Anmer Village Social Club Film Night 8pm: FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY – Comedy based on a local true story starring Dwayne Johnson, Lena Headey, Vince Vaughn in which a former wrestler and his family make a living performing at small venues around the country while his kids dream of joining World Wrestling Entertainment. Classified</p> |
|---|---|

- 12A. Anmer Village Social Club Admission by ticket £3 at the door. Doors and bar opens at 7.30 p.m. Email: films@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone 01485 579465 New members and guests welcome
- 13 United Services Club, Homefields Road Hunstanton Christmas Quiz
- 14 Hunstanton Conservative Club, High St, Hunstanton: Christmas Dinner at 7.30pm with music from Pride
- 14 A Christmas Cabaret at Sedgford Village Hall 7.30-10.30pm. Comedy, music and food. Bring your own booze. Tickets £12 01485 570097 or 07968 596949
- 14 United Services Club, Homefields Road Hunstanton Christmas Grand Prize Bingo 8pm
- 14-15 Wolferton Church: Cinderella at Christmas 11am-4pm Refreshments & free parking.
- 15 Wolferton Church: Carols by Candlelight 4pm
- 15 Christmas Carols in Hunstanton High Street at Chives from 4pm with the Chives Christmas Choir
- 17 Hunstanton Conservative Club, High St, Hunstanton: Christmas Lunch at 1.30pm
- 17 Docking Walking Group 2pm Sandringham Woodland Walk. Meet at Visitor Centre Car Park*
- 17 Hunstanton Library: Pinecone Christmas crafts 4pm Booking essential. Create pinecone decorations for your Christmas Tree. Choose from Rudolph, Mr Snowman, the Christmas Fairy or a mini Christmas tree. £3 per child, 2 pinecones. Wesr something you don't mind getting mucky as we will be using paint, glue and glitter!
- 17 United Services Club, Homefields Road Hunstanton entertainment: High Definition 8.30pm
- 18 Thornham Village Cinema Colette starring Keira Knightley. Tickets £5 Bar and doors 7pm. Film 7.30 tickets 0781 802 868 or just turn up.
- 19 Hunstanton Library 10am Cross Stitch Workshop with Jenny's Little Treasures. £10 per term including all materials or £5 if using own materials
- 19-21 Christmas Tree Festival 10am -4pm each day Salvation Army Hall Snettisham
- 20 Hunstanton Conservative Club, High St, Hunstanton: Christmas Bingo at 7.30pm
- 20 United Services Club, Homefields Road Hunstanton entertainment: Prize Draw and Dancing to Mark Josef 8pm
- 21 King's Lynn Festival chorus Christmas Fantasia. A concert of festive music and readings with audience carols and mulled wine. King's Lynn minster at 4.30pm. Conductor Tom Appleton and organist Ben Horden
- 21 United Services Club, Homefields Road Hunstanton entertainment: Borderline 8.30pm
- 22 Docking Walking Group 11am Great Massingham. Meet at The Dabbling Duck PH (+Xmas lunch)*
- 22 Live by Satellite from the Royal Opera House Covent Garden The Nutcracker. Thornham Village Hall tickets £15 (Children £10) Doors 4.30pm Curtain 5pm
- 24 Hunstanton Conservative Club, High St, Hunstanton: Special Mulled Wine and Mince Pies from 3.30pm.
- 24 United Services Club, Homefields Road Hunstanton entertainment: Transition 8.30pm
- 25 Hunstanton Christmas Swim. Swimmers in fancy dress raise money for charity by braving the icy waters of the Wash from Hunstanton Central Prom. Swimmer must register by 10.30am Parade into Sea at 11am. Raising funds for Hunstanton & District Round Table.
- 25 Snettisham Salvation Army Christmas Day Meeting 10.30am followed by light refreshments
- 25 Hunstanton Conservative Club, High St, Hunstanton: Club open from 10.30am. Free snack for all members.
- 27 Docking Walking Group 11am Brancaster Coast Path & Barrow Common. Meet at The Jolly Sailor PH.*
- 27 Tea Dance at Dersingham Village Centre, Manor road, Dersingham PE31 7LN. Latin, sequence and ballroom dancing. £5 includes tea and cake. Call 01485 540271 or 07707 832295
- 28 United Services Club, Homefields Road Hunstanton entertainment: Steve Perry 8.30pm
- 31 Docking Walking Group 2pm Holme Coast Path and boardwalk. Meet at Beach Car Park Peddars Way.*
- 31 United Services Club, Homefields Road Hunstanton New Year's Eve: Son of a Gun (Entry by ticket only) 8.30pm
- 31 Hunstanton Conservative Club, High St, Hunstanton: Celebrate the New Year with Barry Francis from 8.30pm. Free snack for members
- 31 New Year's Eve Disco and Supper at Dersingham Village Centre 8.30pm with supper at 9pm Licensed Bar £25. Entry by ticket only. Tickets available from Dersingham PO or call 01485 540271

* Docking Walking Group contacts: Helena Aldis 07769 850965 / Mike Rogers 07765 571313

United Services Club, Hunstanton entertainment: Cash Bingo every Mon & Thurs, Karaoke in the Lounge on Sundays.

Hunstanton now operates the 'Open Library' service, meaning you can access the library during unstaffed hours. To use this service, you need to sign up to open access at any library during staffed times. A full list of Library events can be found on our website: www.townandaround.net



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Objections to 30 new homes on Limagrain site in Docking

Sophie Hooker

A planning application was put forward in September for a residential development consisting of 30 dwellings on the former Limagrain UK site west of Station Road, Docking.



The former Limagrain site. Picture: Google Maps

The plan proposes a mix of detached, semi-detached and linked units and an access road would be made from Station Road.

The proposal was put forward by chartered town planners and urban designers Lanpro Services Limited.

Limagrain UK is a local agricultural seeds operating company. The Docking site became vacant in February 2018.

The site is located outside but immediately adjacent to the Docking Conservation Area.

"The proposals involve the delivery of a new residential development providing new high quality homes to meet existing local housing needs. The development will have full regard to the quality and character of the locality, its existing neighbourhood and its setting," the planning statement reads.



The area covering the proposed development. Picture: Lanpro Services Limited

A public consultation event in June garnered predominantly neutral or ambiguous and negative responses, largely regarding concerns with the access point onto Station Road, a lack of affordable homes, school capacity, traffic in the village and objections to the scale of development.

Docking Parish Council have also objected on the grounds that:

- The site is at the heart of the village and is joining onto a conservation area
- The access to the site is adjacent to the village shop and with how parking is outside the shop could cause additional problems
- The walnut tree conservation order that is on the site

Objections to the application have also cited concerns over how local amenities will cope, that the dwellings will be aimed at those wishing to buy a holiday home and that the access point would prove too dangerous.

Mr Paige contacted Town and Around saying "My mother in law lives in Station Road Docking and as we walk up the street now that the holiday season has ended so many of the cottages and newish houses

are empty. I feel Docking's character is being lost; it's a shame people are just after more money, no thought for the village. My grandfather and father were brought up in Docking so I have seen lots of changes, not all for the better."

Ms Howard said: "The last thing our village needs is yet another large development. I found the planning statement very interesting. ".....providing new high quality homes to meet existing local housing need." The high quality obviously means a high price tag! Our existing local housing need is quite simple, we desperately need affordable homes for our young people and families, so they can have the opportunity to stay in their village and not to be forced out by the ridiculously high priced new builds, and also to encourage more families into our village.

This development will be the same as the other ones, they will either be holiday homes or second homes of which we do not need either, we have enough thank you very much!! Our village is saturated now with holiday homes and second homes which do not enhance our village. We want our village to thrive, we want people to come into our village and join in with the community way of life and be part of the village and it's clubs and social activities. That does not happen with the new builds now so it will not happen with more holiday homes and second homes.

We have one very good village shop/post office which serves the needs of the village very adequately, however the increase of holiday homes and second homes has an impact as does the amount of cars parked everywhere in the summer months.

Also I need to mention that the cars from this development will be coming out onto a very busy main road, which is exactly opposite our only shop. Cars are very frequently parked along either side of this road at all times of the day, so for cars coming out of the site will be hazardous.

Enough is enough and it is an emphatic NO to this development. Docking does not want nor need this development, thank you very much!!



Thornham Village Hall
Thursdays @ 18:30



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The second is a standard Zumba class at Thornham Village Hall on a Thursday evening at 18:30. Please contact me if you would like further information. Thanks

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JOIN THE party

West Norfolk council reports £3.1m profit from parking charges last year

Sophie Hooker

Overall the borough council gained £3.1 million from both off-street and on-street parking last year, according to recent figures from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.



The area follows a nationwide trend – English councils made a combined profit of £930 million from their parking activities in 2018/19.

It is a 7% increase from the £867 million councils made in 2017-18 and a 41% increase on the £658 million made in 2013-14.

The 353 local authorities who reported their figures to central government received a total income of £1.746 billion from their on- and off-street parking operations in 2018-19 – including £454 million from penalties, 6% higher than the £428 million in the previous financial year.

The RAC Foundation also ranked King's Lynn and West Norfolk at 73 out of 353 local authorities for amount of profit generated.

Steve Gooding, director of the RAC Foundation, said:

"Penalties now seem to account for nearly half of all on-street parking income.

"What will surprise drivers is that even as parking income soars, the amount of money being spent on routine road maintenance by councils has been in reverse."

Changes to Polling Stations for the General Election

Election staff at the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk are keen to ensure that people are checking their poll cards to see if their polling station has changed.

Andrew Barrett, Electoral Services Manager, explained: "We have nearly 100 polling stations in the borough and only three have been changed to places we have not previously used."



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One of these is in the Town and Around distribution area – Dersingham residents will be voting at Dersingham Village Centre, 83 Manor Road, PE31 6LN (replacing St Cecilia's Catholic Church).

There is also a change for Old Hunstanton electors who will be voting at Holme; this change is permanent.

For anyone who thinks they might not be able to get to their polling station there is still time to register to apply for a proxy vote. The deadline for proxy applications is Wednesday 4 December. Information on how to apply is available online at west-norfolk.gov.uk/election2019. Andrew Barrett continued: "If people have a postal vote, it is vital that they return their vote as soon as possible as there will be increased pressure on the postal service given the time of year. If anyone is worried they won't get it posted back in time, they can drop it into the main King's Court Offices as long as it arrives before 10pm on the day of the election."

General Election Candidates for North West Norfolk



Jo Rust
Labour

I've lived in Norfolk all my life and I love our area. I'm committed to working to improve the lives of the people and community I live with and in. I'm proud of the difference I've already made to our area; being part of the anti-incinerator campaign, fighting to try to stop the closure of Children's Centres and ensuring that our vital cancer and elective surgery at the QEH, weren't moved to the Norfolk and Norwich.

The policies I'm standing on are transformative and will change the lives of the people of North West Norfolk for the better. I benefited from attending our local college as an adult to gain further and higher education qualifications; I did this under Labour Government policies. A new Labour government will bring in a National Education Service providing a lifelong service for a lifetime of opportunity. No one will be locked out of education and we will deliver a new, fully funded right to lifelong learning, raising skills and, vitally in our area, aspiration.

Raising aspiration will help increase productivity in the workplace and work towards a high-skill, high wage economy fit for the future.

I will work for investment in people as well as the infrastructure that our area needs so badly. Our Queen Elizabeth Hospital will be a priority for me if elected, no more meaningless platitudes, but real action to rectify the current situation.

A vote for me will be a vote for change, change we desperately need.



Rob Colwell
Liberal Democrat

Rob Colwell is a prominent local solicitor in King's Lynn. Now aged 37, he has considerable legal aid experience helping victims of domestic abuse, as well as dealing with child contact and protection matters. A previous student of both Gaywood Junior School and King Edward VII High School he now lives in King's Lynn with his wife. He has been an active member of local charitable organisations for many years including the Round Table and Rotary. In their free time he and his wife love to travel.

He first entered the political scene in early 2016 when he stepped forward to lead the West Norfolk Remain campaign in the referendum, fearful of the damage which leaving the EU would cause. He joined the Liberal Democrats later that year and soon rose to the position of Chair of the local party. His role as cross-party Chair of Norfolk for Europe has since brought him into contact with campaigners from many different backgrounds and he completely rejects the idea that politics should be tribal, believing that politicians can achieve so much more when they work together to find intelligent solutions to difficult and intractable problems.

Preventing climate change is another critical issue for Rob. As the nation which industrialised first he argues that we now have a moral obligation to lead the way in developing a high-tech, carbon-free economy in which our standard of living can be protected without wrecking our planet for future generations.

Rob has lived all his life in King's Lynn and has no intention of ever leaving West Norfolk. Although he hopes he has already been able to help a large number of people in the community through his professional and charitable work, he is certain that he would be able to help many more as their local MP.



Michael de Whalley
Green Party

Michael de Whalley, an Open University graduate, is a self-employed IT consultant who has lived in North West Norfolk for most of his life. In 2003 he served in the Iraq war with the Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

Michael was elected in May as a Borough Councillor for Gayton and Grimston Ward and has been working towards the Council declaring a climate emergency. He started the successful KLWIN anti-incinerator campaign and championed local democracy when the public vote against the incinerator was ignored. Years of hands-on campaigning have given Michael a valuable insight into the workings of politics, good and bad. He now wishes to continue his work representing the local community at Westminster, further empowering residents and ensuring that together a better and fairer society is created. Michael de Whalley, if elected as your Green Party MP, promises you, your children and their children to:

- Avoid using the NHS as a political football and ensure it thrives for generations to come
- Invest in our schools so that they become top schools once again
- Substantially improve public transport connecting villages and market towns
- Take tough measures to combat air and water pollution
- Take measures to protect low lying and coastal areas in West Norfolk from the risks of flooding which will undoubtedly increase in years to come
- Dramatically raise the energy efficiency standards of new homes and retrofitting of old ones
- Ban single use plastics in products and packaging
- Improve legal protection and accessibility for our green spaces and create more of them
- Ensure the provision of high speed broadband for everyone in West Norfolk regardless of location



James Wild
Conservative Party

"I'M ENJOYING THIS"

Unlike many, I'm enjoying this general election campaign.

Let me explain. I love Norfolk. I grew up in North Walsham. My earliest memories are days at the coast. The opportunity to stand as a strong voice for North West Norfolk, following Sir Henry Bellingham, is a huge privilege.

I have this chance thanks to sacrifices my parents made to give me a good education. I won an assisted place to Norwich School and worked hard to take advantage of the opportunities that gave me. In the private sector I've advised international businesses. For the past six years, I've worked in Government - since July, advising the Prime Minister on Brexit, helping secure the new deal.

Talking to people in Snettisham, Hunstanton, or The Creakes, I've heard the frustration at the failure to honour the referendum result. And frustration that your day-to-day priorities have been crowded out. I understand the scepticism about pledges to end the uncertainty.

But there is a way to resolve this. By voting Conservative, we can get Brexit done with the pragmatic deal on the table.

By getting the deal through we can refocus on improving health services like the new GP surgery and dementia suite coming to Burnham Market, or fixing the Queen Elizabeth hospital buildings.

We can encourage housing for local people, while keeping our villages special (having been at Heacham Parish Council recently, I encourage you to review the new neighbourhood plan).

To help local entrepreneurs, we will boost mobile coverage and roll out faster broadband. And by protecting our beautiful coastline and countryside, we can encourage tourism.

The alternative is a vote for Jeremy Corbyn as Prime Minister, and another referendum.

As my grandad used to say - don't need to think on that too long boy.



Green Party Climate Change

It is here, it is the biggest threat we face, it is humanity's fault and only we can prevent it. If you don't believe this ask yourself, honestly, why? Is it that you just don't want to believe it, or can't afford to believe it? Maybe you have been listening to someone else's views, if so, what are they really based upon? Unless you have done the science, carried out the experiments and done the calculations, then you really do have to listen to those who have done these things. The vast majority of scientists have concluded that climate change is real and we've done it. A new report, signed by more than 11,000 scientists, has declared a global climate emergency (<https://tinyurl.com/vkehjjo>).

Where are we and what must we do? Climate change is here and has been for some time. We must ADAPT to it to protect ourselves from its worst effects. Read Richard Bird's account of flood defence and emergency procedures in the last issue of Hunstanton Town and Around. While we must ADAPT this alone will not solve the problem. We will never be able to keep up with the increasing threats of flood, fire, drought and storms etc.

Therefore, we must act to AVOID climate change getting worse. This will involve tackling those human activities which have caused the problem in the first place. Our salvation depends upon both AVOIDANCE and ADAPTATION.

Let's look at AVOIDANCE. Our biggest problem is carbon dioxide from the burning of oil, coal and gas. Up until now this has powered all aspects of

our lives and we are addicted to it. Unfortunately, carbon dioxide acts upon our atmosphere causing our planet to warm up. This is known as the greenhouse effect. More carbon dioxide, more heat, more drought, more fires, more storms, more rain, more floods, in fact more of everything that is dangerous. The solution is to prevent further increases in carbon dioxide levels and aim to reduce them to bring our climate back under control.

There is hope, the UK produces almost half its electricity from solar and wind without producing carbon dioxide.

Nevertheless, much can and should be done urgently, no less so in West Norfolk than anywhere else. The Borough Council are currently under pressure to announce a climate emergency and the outcome of this is uncertain. A climate emergency declaration would be the first step to taking concrete measures to reduce local carbon dioxide emissions, introduce low carbon policies and raise external funding. We certainly do not wish to be in the situation of the council in Venice, who two minutes after rejecting a call to declare a climate emergency, were driven from the council chamber by the rushing waters of the worst flooding for 53 years! If we do not start acting now and we simply put off things for the future then the social and financial costs will be overwhelming.

The Green Party is the only party in the UK which has climate change and the environment at the heart of all of its policies. Support the Greens and vote for us on December 12th.

Promoted by Michael de Whalley, Green Party Candidate, 5 Chequers Road, Grimston, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1AJ

A Reader Offer from Town and Around - and it is FREE

It's an unfortunate statistic, but every day the UK sees up to 12,000 accidents on its roads...



It is a very stressful and confusing situation for most and it's difficult to know what's best in this situation. Especially if you are on your own. So, if you are involved in an accident, even if you are miles from home, and your car's damaged and not safe to drive, what do you do?

If you ring your insurer, they probably won't recover you if your car isn't driveable. So how do you sort your car out? The police will call someone out for you, but you will get charged for your vehicle recovery. Most if not all breakdown schemes, (AA, RAC etc.) don't include accident recovery as part of their package, and those that do add in the small print that they will charge you if they can't claim it back elsewhere?

Vehicle recovery would cost you upwards of £250 - and then another

£50 or more every day that your car is stored until it's taken away for repair.

Remember that £200 or more excess on your car insurance that helped keep your premium down a bit? You're now going to have to pay that to your insurer to get your car back after the repairs are done.

Already you can be £500+ out of pocket so fast it's shocking - even if the accident wasn't your fault.

However, you now have an option

Assist Protect is a specialist Accident Management company that acts in your best interests when you have an accident.

Town and Around has negotiated a deal for our readers that means you can get exclusive access to their support and services, thanks to 12 months free membership of Total Motor Assist and Total Van Assist. (This would usually cost £29 a year)

As an AssistProtect member you'll get the advice you need and when you need it, and if the accident isn't your fault, you will also get the following services at no cost to yourself!

- Accident Recovery
- A Replacement Car or Van (like for like)
- Dealership approved repairs to your car
- A case worker to manage your claim for you (in its entirety and save you making a claim on your own policy! This saves you paying your excess or losing your no claims bonus, too!)
- Physiotherapy for any injury sustained in the accident
- Legal Support
- 24/7 Helpline
- Your 'No claims bonus' remains untouched
- No insurance excess upon renewal

To join FREE today, please go to:

<https://townandaround.assistprotect.co.uk/>



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Please note the Theatre, Sunset Wine Bar and the Box Office will be closed from Thursday 2nd January and will re-open on Monday 13th January at 10am.

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